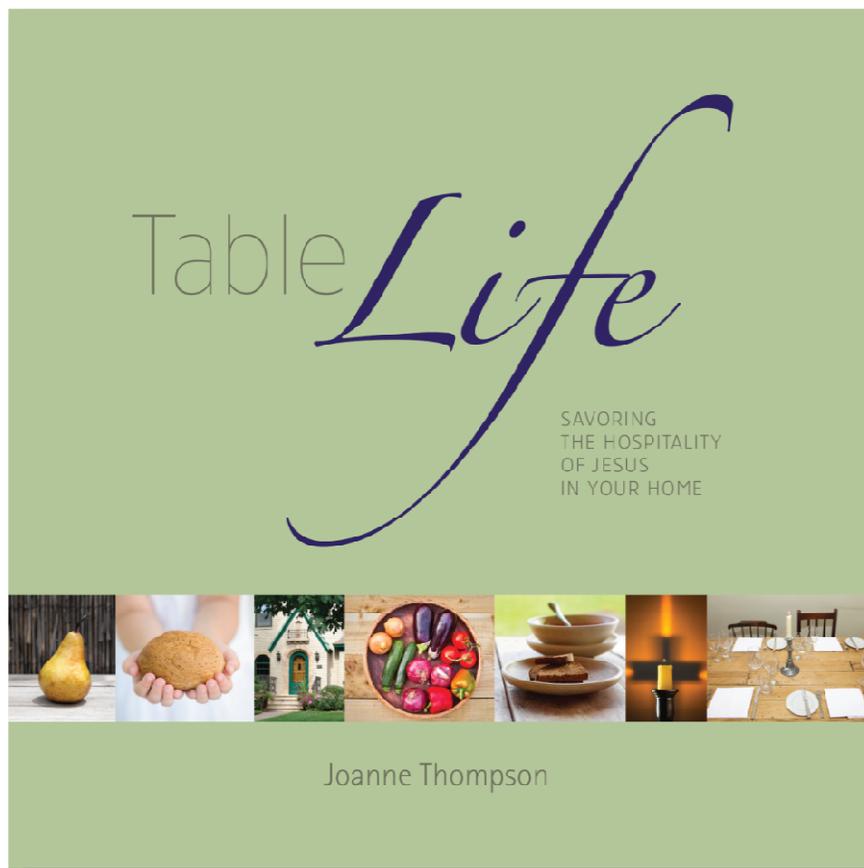
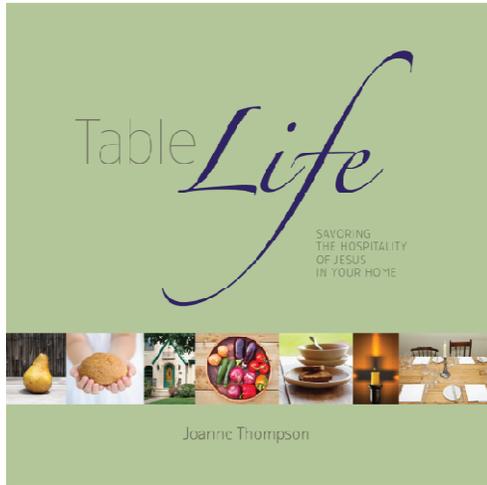


# Media Kit

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **A People Focus Makes Hospitality Achievable and Affordable**

Aiming for a simple, meaningful interaction rather than a cooking show tour de force can put entertaining guests within reach of busy people with budgets and lived-in homes. A fresh look at stories of Jesus at the table

suggests focusing on hospitality by moving from the dining room to the kitchen, and from being impressive to making meaningful connections.

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN - November 18, 2011** - In our world of stress there's one resource waiting to recalibrate our lives—the welcome hospitality of the kitchen table. Food is God's good gift designed to give us more gifts. In today's culture, we certainly have not stopped enjoying food, but the pressures of life-pace and perfectionism rob us of the pleasures of relaxed communal life around the table.

Author Joanne Thompson invites readers to discover hospitality's freedoms and joys by looking at Jesus's table life. Christ took time to eat meals every day. He conversed, loved and lingered at the table in numerous homes. This practical and inspirational guide shows how Jesus frees us from comparing our own home and culinary skills to the mythical perfect house and perfect cook that lurk threateningly in our imaginations (and maybe on TV). We love our coffee shops, and millions are entertained by television cooking stars every day, but rarely do we savor relationships by inviting friends, neighbors or strangers to our homes.

Hospitality need not feel like one more anxious, expensive, exhausting obligation, but it's the treasure of an open door for both guest and host to be touched by God's love. Table life is for every home—from the one room studio apartment to the house in the sprawling suburbs. Shrinking budgets might limit the array of food on the table but not Christ's supply of love. Jesus still accomplishes amazing things through our willingness to offer a cup of cold water. And who doesn't have a cup of water to share?

Order from: [www.BeaversPondBooks.com](http://www.BeaversPondBooks.com)

ISBN 13:978-1-59298-453-4

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## **What people are saying about *Table Life: Savoring the Hospitality of Jesus in your Home*.**

“Reading Joanne’s heart on these pages makes me want to walk in her front door. She has helped us see what hospitality does and doesn’t look like and why it is perennially important. Family mealtime is vanishing from our landscape and it is a great loss. Rediscover the power for loving others with this simple and encouraging call to ‘come home.’”

—**Barbara Rainey, speaker, artist, and author of *Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember* and *When Christmas Came***

“In a culture that often moves too quickly for conversation, that is too rushed for thoughtful meals, *Table Life* offers a better way. Wisely looking to the life of Christ and the pages of scripture, Joanne shows us the value of hospitality, the warmth of a meal, and the vitality of community. This is a timely read!”

—**Kelly Minter, speaker, worship leader, and author of *The Living Room Bible Studies* and *No Other Gods***

“*Table Life* is a compelling call to come to the table—a call to make an ordinary and common event infused with value and anticipation. There is a spiritually-rich connection of heart so often missing in our fast-paced culture. In scripture, shared meals were frequently times when God chose to show up. *Table Life* suggests He still does. These pages create an anticipation of joy and delight for the simple act of eating a meal together.”

—**Dr. Suzanne Stubblefield, clinical psychologist, director of Legacy, a women’s mentoring ministry.**

“Never underestimate the power of an invitation in our isolated world. When we say ‘come to our homes, eat with us,’ hearts become soft and open. My heart was challenged seeing Jesus at so many table experiences recorded in Scriptures and reading current stories through Joanne’s book. Could this be the best way to befriend the ‘outsider to grace?’

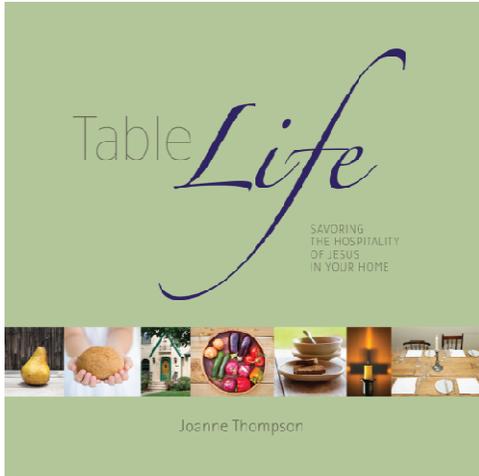
—**Joyce Bademan, founder and international director of the Christmas Gathering Ministry**

“This exceptional book has a richness and honesty that we need to digest, and it’s not just for a good woman like my wife, but we men need to pay attention to these pages. We all need to be reminded of Jesus’s hospitality on our way to being life-giving, Christ-following people. And do try the Margarita Ice Cream Dessert you’ll find in Chapter 7—like this book, it’s good with any meal.”

—**Wes Roberts, leadership mentor and organizational designer, Leadership Design Group**

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Ask Joanne about *Table Life: Savoring the Hospitality of Jesus in your Home.*



1. Other books have been written on hospitality. What makes *Table Life* unique?
2. What motivated you to write *Table Life*?
3. Explain why *Table Life* is a book for both men and women?
4. Aren't people today just too busy and frazzled to add one more thing to do?
5. You describe in your book that hospitality isn't just something we do but that it shapes who we become. Describe what you mean.
6. What keeps people from opening their homes and tables to others?
7. How do you practice hospitality in your home?
8. What have you learned through the years of practicing hospitality?
9. Do you have a favorite gospel story of Jesus at the table?

## About the Author



*Table Life: Savoring the Hospitality of Jesus in Your Home* is Joanne's first published book. She has served churches in Colorado and Minnesota with her husband who is a pastor. Together they have practiced hospitality by inviting friends and strangers to enjoy a simple meal of soup, bread, and a scoop of sherbet. Joanne has spoken on the theme of hospitality nationally. She is also a part of the speaker team for FamilyLife "Weekends to Remember" marriage conferences. Her passion for homemade bread complements her love for tandem biking and cross country skiing. Joanne currently resides in Minnesota. The Thompsons have two daughters and six grandchildren.