

TEMPLE • TABLES

Tables

Leader Training Guide

A supplementary resource to accompany the video training series

This guide is your reference document for everything covered in the Tables video training. Keep it. Come back to it. Use it as a foundation as you step into your role and grow in it.

"They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers."

Acts 2:42

Why Tables Exist

The heart and theology behind the model

Sundays gather a crowd. Tables build a church.

That is not just a tagline. It is a conviction rooted in how the gospel has always spread. Romans 16 is not a boring administrative ending to Paul's greatest letter. It is a blueprint. Paul is showing us how the kingdom actually moved — not through stages and spotlights, but through ordinary people. Homes. Tables. Names. Family. Mission.

Phoebe carried the letter to Rome. Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives — and opened their home for the church to meet in. Andronicus and Junia went to prison together. These were not celebrities. They were carriers. And the church grew because of them.

"Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Greet also the church that meets at their house."

Romans 16:3-5

Faith happened around tables before it ever happened on stages. And that is still true today.

London is fast, full, and lonely. You can be surrounded all day and still not have a single person you could ring at 2am and say: I'm not okay. God said in Genesis 2 that it is not good for man to be alone. That is not poetry — that is design. We were built for this.

Hebrews 3:13 says: encourage one another daily, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Isolation hardens you quietly. No notification. Just slow drift. Tables push back against that. Every week.

"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Hebrews 3:13

If we build Temple and only give people inspiration on a Sunday — but they stay relationally isolated — we've missed Jesus. Tables is our infrastructure. It's how we make sure someone doesn't stay a face in the room. They become a name in the credits.

What a Table Actually Is

Simple, consistent, and shaped around your people

A Table is a small group, meeting mid-week, usually in someone's home. The rhythm is straightforward: 45 minutes of shared meal and connection, followed by 45 minutes of Bible discussion and prayer. That's the heartbeat. Everything else is flexible.

We are not giving you a rigid blueprint. The goal isn't a perfect format — it's that nobody drifts. So we trust you to know your people and shape the table around them. A young family might meet fortnightly at home and gather after church on the off week. A group spread across the city might meet online. The form can flex. The faithfulness is what matters.

The table is for everyone. It just doesn't look the same for everyone.

The Four Roles

Every table needs all four — owned by one person or spread across four

Belonging isn't just being included. Belonging is being needed. We are not handing out church titles. We are naming the ways love shows up. Every table has four key roles. Where a table is just starting out, one person may hold all four. The vision is for each to be owned by someone — because when people carry, they belong.

Host

You open your home. You set the environment before anyone arrives — music playing, candles lit, space ready. You are at the door when people walk in. You make sure everyone

has a drink, feels settled, and knows they are welcome. The Host role is the most personal of all four — because you are not just offering a skill. You are opening your life.

"Greet the church that meets at their house." — Romans 16:5

Hospitality

You plan and prepare the meal. You communicate with the group in advance, check for dietary needs, build around an anchor dish, and present the food in a way that communicates value. The meal sets the emotional tone for the whole evening. When someone walks in and it smells good and the table is laid — the walls come down before a word is spoken. The meal is ministry.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." — Acts 2:46

Facilitator

You lead the Bible discussion. You prepare in the week, sit with the passage yourself first, and come ready with open questions that build on each other. You warm the room, hold the shape of the night, draw quieter voices in, and close in prayer. Your job is not to teach — it is to create a space where God's word can land in someone's real life.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom." — Colossians 3:16

Follow Up

You connect with new guests before and after each table. You send the week's details to the group, give new interest sign-ups a welcome call, spot first-timers on the night, send a personal follow-up message the day after, and flag any pastoral needs to leadership. Follow-up is spiritual warfare against drifting. Every person on your list is a name God is pursuing. When you reach out — you extend that pursuit.

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." — Philippians 2:4

What We Expect from a Leader

Not perfection — a life genuinely offered

Romans 12:1 puts it plainly: offer your life as a living sacrifice — holy and acceptable to God. That's the standard we're holding ourselves to. Not performance. Not an image. A life that is genuinely offered.

"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship."

Romans 12:1

Here is what that looks like practically for a Tables leader:

Actively pursuing your relationship with Jesus

Not coasting. Not maintaining. Pursuing. Your table will only go as deep as you are willing to go. Keep going deeper yourself. Make time in the word, in prayer, in worship — not as a box to tick but as the foundation everything else flows from.

Keeping a repentant heart and running from sin

We are not asking you to be someone who never struggles. We are asking you to be someone who doesn't make peace with it. There is a difference. Keep short accounts with God. Stay soft. Run toward the light rather than managing the darkness. Your group will feel that posture, even if they never see the details.

Being honest about where and who you are

We do not need you to project an image of perfection. We need you to be real. The people around your table are watching — not to see if you have it all together, but to see if it's safe to not have it all together. When you lead from honesty, you give everyone else permission to do the same. That is what makes a table safe. That is what makes it transformative.

We are not looking for perfect leaders. We are looking for honest ones. Lead from where you are. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Trust that God will do the rest.

Quick Reference

Key scriptures to carry with you

"They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers."

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"Greet the church that meets at their house."

Romans 16:5

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Philippians 2:4

"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

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"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom."

Colossians 3:16

"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship."

Romans 12:1

"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."

John 17:21

Don't skip the credits.

Let's become them.

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