

CORE VALUES | the essence of who we are as the Body of Christ

At The Table four leading values emerged from our understanding of the gospel. It is from these defining principles that we exist, rooting ourselves in one or all of these values. To illustrate the significance of these convictions, we asked our staff to share each week how one of these particular values is being played out in their area of ministry.

Authentic Community

To know and be known
To love and be loved

By Jason Barnes, Creative Arts Pastor



Every week since September I have hosted my Northwest Passage group at my house. On special occasions we'd step it up a notch and share a meal. It was through these meal times I discovered stories of childhood, holiday memories, cross-cultural travels and the recent developments within their own hearts towards Christ and change. The food only served as a means to an end, a catalyst for drawing people out and into a space where they could be real. In essence, every time we shared a meal we shared ourselves. The great stuff, the sad stuff, the challenging aspects of life.

This is where you come in. As we consider the call of God and what we're learning from Ezra, what would it look like for you to intentionally create space for authentic community in your life this summer?

Every great idea begins with a plan. Grab your calendar and pray for God to show you who to invite over and get to know better. Maybe it's your co-worker, neighbor, an old friend or even someone new to The Table. Maybe you are sitting beside someone who has an awesome story to share. But you will never know unless you try. As the sent people of God we are called to be intentional with our lives, "to know and be known, to love and be loved" through authentic community. And what better way to live out this value than through a meal where you serve another, listening to their heart as they share their story. Bon appétit!

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