

Food 4 Thought Host Guide

First and foremost, thank you! In hosting a Food4Thought meal you are quite literally moving the most needed conversations in our world today from the microphone, the podium and the pulpit to your dining room table. With your help, we want to engage our neighbors, friends and families in a conversation concerning the growing injustices in our society; played out in our cities, our nation and our world. If we truly want justice to reign and before we can take even one concrete step toward changing the world in which we live, we must begin by understanding the injustices of our time and our call as people of God. It is our hope, that with your help we can begin the movement to justice in your home and at your table. Here's how it's done:

1. **Invite a group to your home for a simple meal.** With your invitation, prepare them for the conversation. It is important that your family, friends or neighbors know specifically that they are invited to a dinner and topic oriented conversation. Most awkward moments or unexpected surprises should be avoided with a clear invitation. Creative invitations are encouraged.
2. **Prepare yourself for the conversation.** We have prepared topical placemats for your use. Review the placemat content and decide which perspective you would like to discuss. We have developed 4 different perspectives to choose from; *Matthew and Martin, Third Poorest City, Ethiopia's Children, and Faithful Citizenship*. Read the material on the placemat you choose before your guests arrive. Download the correct number of placemats for your table and the congressional pledge cards. The placemat format is 11x17 sheet or (2) 8.5x11 sheets and the pledge cards is 8.5x11.
3. **Plan your meal with the mission in mind.** Of course, we want your guests to feel welcome and well cared for, but a simple meal is preferred, in keeping with the context of the issues discussed. Design the evening's conversation such as, with the appetizers, smaller groups could discuss the [Appetizer Quotations](#) at the top of the placemat. Or, with before-meal drinks, your guests could read the [Main Course](#) content, allowing time to gather thoughts before the meal conversation. Saving the deeper [Sweet Questions](#) to be discussed with dessert. After the meal could be a good opportunity to read and discuss the [Our Hope and Our Challenge](#) portion. [Offer the pledge cards](#) as one easy step for your guests to move toward justice. (Send them to Sojourners yourself, the address is on the cards or return them to Cincinnati Windchangers via Chip Williamson 513 755 7892) End the gathering with prayer. These are suggestions, be creative and do what works best for you and your guests.
4. **Pray for discernment after the evening is complete.** Look to God for guidance for your next steps. Consider a follow up conversation with your guests a week later, or maybe hosting a second meal...or perhaps discerning a deeper commitment to engage with an established faith based action organization. Maybe even start one! Allow God to move and see what happens.

Again, thank you being a host for justice. We hope that the Food4Thought placemat discussion guides have proven to be a simple way for you to begin the transformation of our world one person at a time. We would love to hear how your discussion went. Give us your feedback by emailing us at VOPcincy@gmail.com. Together we can make a difference. We pray for God's blessing on you, your guests and our work together.