

Overview of the week

Aim of week: To provide stimulation for our ministries as children, youth, family workers by weaving together selected Biblical narratives regarding families, together with contemporary missiology.

Key image - tables: You sit at a table. The people in your ministry context sit around tables. Jesus sat at tables. Many Bible narratives occurred around tables. What narratives and insights - Biblical, ministerial, missional - can shape our “table” ministry?

My context: I come not as an academic with a lot of well polished talks. Instead the material is tentative and on the run, shaped by 6 years helping an established church refind a heart for local community ministry. This conference has provided a chance to go back through my hard drive, trying to pull together key moments and learnings and shaping narratives, with specific regard to family ministry, and to realise this recurring theme of table.

And so to offer the fragments to you, wondering what you will find as we sift life and ministry together. I am looking forward to that with you.

Introducing

Steve Taylor

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- married to Lynne Taylor, father to Shannon and Kayli Anne
- enjoys coffee and a run down kiwi bach at Lower Selwyn Hutts
- planted an emerging church - Graceway Baptist Church
- PhD study at University of Otago on emerging forms of church
- popularised in *The Out of Bounds Church? Learning to Create a Community of Faith in a Culture of Change*, Zondervan, 2005
- change agent pastor – Opawa Baptist, planting new congregations - espresso, Grow, Soak
- Senior Lecturer, School of Mission and Ministry, at Laidlaw College (Christchurch)

Paul McMahan

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<http://www.facebook.com/mcmahonpg>

- Married to Anne, father to Enda
- Enjoys cricket and second hand book shops
- Part of pastoral team as Associate Pastor (Mission Resourcing) at Opawa Baptist Church
- Part of planting espresso and the gathering congregations as part of Opawa’s multi-congregation model
- Post-graduate study on politics, theology and distributive justice
- Tutor, researcher for Angelwings Consultancy

Content outline of the week

MONDAY Abraham's family

Communication style: Sermonic

The tables of contrast: Rublevs Icon or McDonalds, Paralowie, North Adelaide

The passion of Isaac
The brokenness of Hagar

Group sharing questions:
What contrasts shape my tables?
Where am I finding God around my tables?

MONDAY Faith:full mission: Culture makers

The Taylor family table

Images of cultural response
Investing in Timothy
Ministry as tending and creating
Cross shaped culture making
Culture maker video clips

TUESDAY Ruth's family

The cafe table: Or what do we really need to hear from the threshing floor?

Communication style: Multiple voices - 3 chairs around cafe table.

Overview: Ruth's children's Bible
Refugee and migrant worker
Family systems therapist
Credit crunch

Group sharing questions:
What themes - family, history, economic - have shaped my tables?
How have I begun to find God in these themes?

TUESDAY missio dei in faith formation

Tables set in post-Christendom

Luke 10:1-12 as a post-Christendom text
Living well at post-Christendom tables
Living missionally at post-Christendom tables

WEDNESDAY David's family

Communication style: communal lectio

Dauids banqueting table

Friendship with Jonathon
Hospitality with Mephibosheth
Fathering with Absalom

Group sharing questions:
How have friends and family formed me?
How has the absence of friends and family formed me?
How might that shape my ministry tables?

WEDNESDAY Faith:full community happy meals:

Australian bbq table in *Slap*, by Chris Tsiolokas

“Takes a village to raise a child”

Faith formation, community formation

Growing Jesus: Luke 2:41-52

Spaces | Food | Questions

“Happy meals have nothing to do with a quick burger and everything to do with attentive ears and simple food - grown and marketed justly.” (*Spirituality of bread*, 133)

THURSDAY Family ministry around Jesus

Tables both Jewish and peasant

Communication style: storytelling

Bill and Ben and their goat called Raisins (Mark 2:1-12)

Jane and her rabbit called Stew (Mark 1:40-45)

Group sharing questions:
Who did I most identify with in the story?
What images of God are shaping Jesus family ministry?

THURSDAY Faith:full disciples: formation in ministry

The task of starting in the right place

The task of journeying well

The task of integration

Grounded in Grow | TKF services | Stories of life

FRIDAY Birthing again

Tables: high chair/kids size

Communication style: abductive

Birthing takes time
Birthing is unique
Birthing is lifelong
Birthing within systems

Group sharing questions:
What is God birthing in me and my ministry?
What practices sustain and nurture that birthing?

FRIDAY Faith:full church: implications for leaders today.

Reading

Crouch, Andy, *Culture Makers*, IVP, 2008.

Dean, Kenda Creasy, *Practicing Passion. Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*, Eerdmans, 2004.

Drane, John and Olive Fleming, *Family Fortunes*, DLT, 2004

Drane, John, *Do Christians Know How to Be Spiritual?*, DLT: UK, 2005.

Drane, Olive Fleming, *Spirituality to go*, DLT: UK, 2005.

Drane, John, *After McDonaldisation*, DLT: UK, 2008.

Chris Tsiolkas, *Slap*, Allen and Unwin, 2008.