



# HOW TO HAVE A STORY FEAST

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## WHY HAVE A STORY FEAST?

God has written his very image into your story. He has sent you as his ambassador to tell his story. As you share your story with others and listen to others' stories, you will grow closer to your sisters in Christ and open doors for the hurting world to hear the gospel. A Story Feast is an intentional way to gather a group together to share stories.

## FOOD FOR THE FEAST

Invite everyone to bring something. You can choose a theme or just go with pot luck. Do an entire meal or make it simpler with apps or desserts. Some of my favorite recipes have come from story feasts, and the cool thing is you often get to hear a story related to the food:-)!

## STORY TOPICS

There are as many story topics as there are stories, but here are a few to get you started:

- best/worst school story
- a story of rescue
- traditions of holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.
- first job story or work story
- stories of waiting
- vacation stories

Our Bible study group used to choose a theme related to our Bible study and take a break from our regular study to have a story feast.

Living Story Story Feast

## HELP PEOPLE WRITE THEIR STORIES

Here is one way to approach writing a story to share:

1. Set aside 15 minutes. Brainstorm by writing down topics/titles that come to mind.
2. Set aside 30 minutes. Choose a topic, and answer a few questions about it. Here are some questions to consider:
  - Describe the senses — what you heard, tasted, felt, saw, smelled... etc.
  - Who were the people involved?
  - What happened? Was there a conflict? Was there a resolution?
  - What did you or do you see about God in the story?
  - Is there any redemption or revelation in the story?
3. Set aside 30 minutes again. Using the questions above, write out the story. Try to keep it rather short — around two pages. Sharing time is usually limited to around 10 minutes at the feast.

## PLAN THE FEAST

Although sometimes stories just come out as we linger around the table or living room together, often the time needs to be a little more structured.

1. Allot a certain amount of time for eating, then gather to share stories.
2. Give an allotted time — usually around 10-15 minutes works well. (Tell your guests ahead of time, so they will know they won't have time to share every detail).
3. Remind everyone that they aren't "required" to tell a story (tell them this when you invite them, too — more people will come:-)!) Then remind them it will be fairly dull if no one does. Usually one brave soul begins, and often others decide to tell their story or remember one to tell if they haven't before.
4. Share stories.
5. Provide a little time for feedback or observations. Remind people that they don't need to try to fix anyone's problem, just listen carefully, especially for hope and redemption.
6. After the feast, within a day or so, return to the story and jot down a few new things you noticed after telling your story.