

Thanksgiving Missional Hangout 2017

Missional Hangouts (MH) are a core component of the Summit's disciple-making strategy. MHs provide an opportunity for your entire group to practice living the gospel together.

The path of least resistance in the midst of a busy, fast-paced life is to circle the wagons and do nothing or only do something with the people you already know and love. There are times when investing in the people in your group is important. **Summit small groups have set aside Thanksgiving as one of two holidays (along with Easter) to focus on others, specifically our non-Christian friends.**

Many people in the Triangle are not from the Triangle. That means they are far from family and friends to share the holiday with. Inviting people to a holiday party is a very low-risk prospect for most relationships. Whether or not they can make it to the event, they feel endeared toward the person inviting them. This may move a relationship from acquaintance to trusted friend, which can lead to opportunities to share the gospel.

For some in your group, MHs will serve as the culmination of many trash can/water cooler/play date conversations with your non-Christian friends as you invite them to come to a party that your group is hosting in order for them to have gospel conversations with other Christians. For others in your group, a MH serves as the starting block for a relationship with a non-Christian by providing something tangible you can invite them to and enjoy together.

The goal for your MH is not to have each member of your group share the gospel during the party. **The goal is for every member of your group to invite someone!** MHs create an opportunity for your group to model for non-Christians the love that is found only in Christ. As casual conversations occur between everyone present, some will lead to the gospel and some will lead to sharing your turkey recipe—both are okay.

Remember these three essential elements of a successful MH:

1. **The “win” is in the invite.** Only God can make the seeds we sow produce spiritual life in our friends. The simple act of inviting moves the relationship forward. Invitations display the care and effort you are investing into the relationship.
2. **Follow-up is key.** An invitation followed by silence does not help build a friendship. Follow-up shows that you care, whether or not the person attends.
3. **Be aware of the “margin” barrier.** An overcommitted and busy schedule is one of the greatest barriers to living on mission. Saying “yes” to too many good things prevents small groups from investing in each other and the lives of non-Christians.