

Sharing in the Round — A Missional Practice

Missional practices: cultivating new understandings, ways of being, and living Christ's mission.

Purpose: Bring people together in meaningful conversation over a meal to develop and deepen relationships. Sharing in the Round is an ancient practice of table fellowship. The round table as symbol of Christ's mission is significant. There is no place of honor at a round table – all are equal and all are welcome. Some of the most meaningful ministry by Jesus occurred around the table of invitation and hospitality. Good food, friends, and meaningful conversation lead to deeper relationships and community.

Steps:

- Commit to the missional practice of *Sharing in the Round* on a regular basis (every other week or once a month) by inviting a person or family to have dinner either in your home or a place suitable for good conversation.
- Be prayerful for opportunities to invite people around the table. The counsel offered in Doctrine and Covenants Section 154 — *My Spirit is reaching out to numerous souls even now...* may guide you.
- Invite people from your congregation as a way of deepening relationships and building sacred community.
- Expand the practice beyond your circle of friends by inviting friendly strangers from your neighborhood, work, school, or the store down the street.
- Be willing during conversation to be vulnerable by sharing some of what is going on in your life. This often opens the pathway of trust for others to share. Balance sharing with listening. Pay attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit in your conversation. The Holy Spirit may be prompting you to pray for a concern expressed or to extend understanding and compassion.

Tips for the Process:

Risk something new beyond inviting friends or close associates in ministry. When you plan your invitation list, consider inviting people outside of your comfort level such as people in your or the congregation's neighborhood, people from your workplace, and those in the congregation you do not know well.