Session 7: The Last Supper, For	
Now	
SESSION COALS	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has a point—what each participant	
should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.	
eeting, and deing.	
Main Idea: Jesus's death and resurrection offer us	
hope for new life in him. We can rejoice, anticipating the grand reunion feast waiting for us	
in his coming kingdom.	
Head Change: To know that Jesus's resurrection gives us hope for eternal life with him.	
gives as hope for econial me war inin	
Heart Change: To feel encouraged by the	
prospect of an eternal, beautiful future with God.	
Life Change: To exercise the spiritual discipline of	
table fellowship as an expression of our hope,	
creating opportunities to regularly gather with	
other believers and inviting the lost to come and see the hope we have in Jesus.	
Fach sossion in Table Talks corresponds	
Each session in <i>Table Talks</i> corresponds to a video segment featuring a recipe.	
Feel free to watch the video as a group,	
make the recipe together, and use the	
icebreaker question below to spark conversation while you eat.	
	
OPEN	

If you were able to invite any living person to have dinner with you, who would it be? What topics would you cover during your meal? And what would you prepare for your time together?	
Fellowship around a table, while sharing good food and conversation, is an effective, artful method of growing relationships. The pace of our society, however, impedes our efforts to cultivate friendships slowly. In today's session, Bianca will look at the Last Supper as a hopeful event pointing to our future feast in heaven and as a model for a spiritual discipline we can implement today.	
REVIEW	
Bianca began by imagining what she would cook if she could have us all over for dinner at her place. Do you have a favorite recipe you use when hosting? What makes it special?	
Jesus and his disciples gathered for their annual Passover dinner, a traditional feast celebrating an important event in their nation's faith. But at their last Passover together, Jesus changed things up. Read Luke 22:14–22.	
The bread and wine now represented his body and blood, which would be sacrificed for them and us. He knew that, after dinner, he would be arrested, tried, and falsely condemned to die. So he "eagerly desired" to eat one last meal with his friends. When you are leaving loved ones for a long time, how do you like to celebrate before you go? What sorts of feelings dominate	
during your last time together?	

Jesus comforted them with a vision of future joy	
—the next time they would gather for such a meal would be a celebration of God's kingdom.	
Why do you think Jesus offered his disciples a	
hopeful vision of the future? How can hope	
help us endure difficulty?	
Jesus made the ceremonial dinner a word picture	
for how he would bring salvation to us. Through cracked bread, bitter herbs, and sweet wine, the	
disciples tasted and felt tangible illustrations of	
the price Jesus was about to pay. We are tactile	
people with five senses to help us experience the	
world. In Communion, or the Lord's Supper, we	
have a small piece of bread and some wine or	
grape juice. But even these small offerings can engage all of your senses In what ways does the	
Lord's Supper create an environment that	
engages all of your senses? How does holding	
and tasting the communion elements solidify	
Jesus's sacrifice in your mind?	
Pianca guatad hiblical scholar N. T. Wright, who	
Bianca quoted biblical scholar N. T. Wright, who wrote that Jesus "gave them a meal" as a way to	
explain his death to his disciples. For thousands of	
years, the church has mimicked Jesus by	
celebrating the Lord's Supper. The details may	
differ by region or tradition, but we often repeat	
Jesus's words from the Last Supper when we take	
this meal. If you attend church, how does the Lord's Supper help you focus on Jesus's	
sacrifice for you? Which elements of your	
tradition make the ceremony meaningful to	
you?	
Read Luke 13:29 and Revelation 19:6–9. Both	
passages reference a future feast in God's kingdom. At the Last Supper, Jesus acknowledged	
his coming suffering, which must have been	
sobering to hear. But he ended on a note of hope	

—that he would join them again in the kingdom	
of God. The next banquet they'd share would be	
one of joy and celebration! Based on the	
passages you just read, what emotions surround the "marriage feast of the Lamb"?	
What makes God's kingdom worth	
anticipating?	
We can look forward to a glorious eternal future	
with God all because Jesus was willing to sacrifice	
his life on our behalf. His love reaches past our	
faults and offers us a future with him in the new heavens and new earth. When you think of	
being included in God's future kingdom, what	
excites you the most?	
BIBLE EXPLORATION	
DIDLE LAT LORATION	
At the Last Supper, Jesus offered the disciples a	
glimpse of their future hope, the surety that they all would one day gather again. That joyful event	
would have to wait through the suffering and	
sorrow surrounding Jesus's death, the persecution	
of the church, and all the various trials and pains that life brings everyone. As his disciples now, we	
still await that future day when all wrongs will be	
made right. How are we to live in hope? What	
does hope really mean?	
What is hope?	
First was pood a definition of home The Dandon	
First, we need a definition of hope. The Random House Webster's Dictionary's first entry says hope	
is "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain	
thing to happen." How would you define hope?	
In what ways does your understanding of hope align with the general dictionary definition?	
<u> </u>	
Bible dictionaries define hope as "a confidence in	
regard to a good and beneficial future" (DBL Hebrew), and "a looking forward to in confident	

expectation" (Louw-Nida). What sets the biblical meaning of hope apart from the general definition given above?	
Biblical hope is not mere wishful thinking, as children might "hope" the presents under the Christmas tree are exactly what they requested. Such thinking is based on the strength of the child's feelings, not a concrete reality. Biblical hope relies on the object or person who is being trusted to bring about a desired result.	
Let's explore what Scripture teaches us.	
What do we hope for?	
The Marriage Supper of the Lamb describes the beginning of God's new, eternal kingdom. But why is the new kingdom worth pinning our hopes on? What will it be like? Read Revelation 21:1–7.	
The culmination of history shows God dwelling with his people in a new heaven and a new earth. The old, broken world will be replaced with a perfect, ideal world. The kingdom will be full of resurrected people living on a beautiful, perfected earth. What will it look like? We don't know—we only get imagery to give us a sense of its rightness. How can the assurance that God plans a whole new, perfect world inspire you to endure the trials you face?	
The writer of Revelation pictures the new Jerusalem as a bride. Just as a wedding marks the beginning of a bride and groom's new, united life together, so the union of God (the groom) to live with his people (his bride) marks the start of a new, holy, perfect world. How does the wedding imagery in Revelation 21 help you understand God's future kingdom better?	

Verses 3 and 4 describe the union between God and humanity. Jesus became a human and dwelt	
among us for a time, and the Spirit lives in us	
now. But someday, Jesus will return to dwell permanently with us. When has God's nearness	
meant the most to you?	
What can we do to remind ourselves and	
others of God's present and future proximity with us?	
The new kingdom also means peace, wholeness,	
joy—all that we fight to attain as we struggle against sorrow, death, and pain. With God, broken	
things are made new. What in your life needs to be made new? How could the hope you have	
in Christ encourage you as you wait for God's	
renewal?	
In verses 6–7, God himself announces that he has	
done it! In the new heavens and new earth, he is the trustworthy source of life who has answered	
every need, renewed every spirit, restored	
everyone who hoped in him. How does the	
vision of Revelation 21 encourage your faith	
today? What does it change or add to the way you worship God?	
How does hope affect our lives now?	
Read Colossians 1:3–5. Paul, writing to a church,	
describes why he thanks God for them: their faith in Jesus and love for God's people. According to	
verse 5, what is the church's faith and love	
rooted in? What's the connection between hope, faith, and love?	
The church in Colossae continued to faithfully	
love each other because they were motivated by	

what was coming in the future. In other words,	
their hope changed the way they lived. What are	
some specific ways you've seen your actions,	
thoughts, or relationships change because of	
your hope in God?	
The Colossian church expressed their faith and	
loved each other so well that they were known for	
their hope. Who are the most hopeful people in	
your life? What makes them unique?	
Hope changes everything. When we put our hope	
in what is sure—Jesus's resurrection and future	
return—we are transformed from the inside out.	
We can be joyful in difficult circumstances; we can	
rest in a world that prizes busyness; we can serve	
other people sacrificially. What could it look like	
in your life for hope in Christ to ground you,	
to support you in daily life? How could hope	
motivate your conversations, your decisions,	
your prayers?	
Bianca closed her teaching by encouraging us to	
exercise our hope through a specific action: table	
fellowship. Our mealtime gatherings—often	
referred to as the table—offer microcosmic	
moments to celebrate God's work in our lives and	
point to our future with him. A small group sharing dinner, a few friends at a coffee shop, a	
family enjoying a picnic the setting doesn't	
matter as long as love is central. Tasty food is a	
bonus. What could the discipline of table	
fellowship look like in your life? Whom could	
you invite to your table?	
LAST WORD	
Hope has a name—Jesus. His resurrection gives	
us courage and excitement and purpose as we	
walk out our days keeping his promises in mind.	
Our hope for his return is based on solid intel—he	

told us he was coming back, and we know that God is faithful and trustworthy. So as we keep gathering around our tables in love and fellowship, enduring hard times, and enjoying sweet moments, we do so with the assurance that our efforts are not in vain. We are a people of hope. Let's keep sharing that good news.	
DEEPER WALK	
Memorize: Memorize Revelation 19:7, "Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself."	
Prepare: As you plan your next gathering, find a recipe for an old favorite dish that recalls warm, pleasant memories. As you prepare the meal, pray for your guests. Be ready to share a story or two, when you sit down with them, of how that recipe was part of special occasions in your life.	
Study: Using Bible study resources such as a concordance or Bible dictionary, conduct a study of the word hope. Read the stories in which it plays a significant role. See how it connects to faith and love. Psalm 71:5, Jeremiah 29:11, and Acts 26:6 are good places to start.	
Pray: Spend time thanking God for giving you the assurance of your eternal future. Ask for clarity on what is still unclear and for faith to live each day in light of your hopeful destiny.	

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