

The Gypsy Gal

On mission with God

EXPERIENCES...

2026 began with friends and sparklers at midnight! Three friends slept over two nights, and when they left Geta came for 2 nights. She has started working for a local NGO which is good and also moved in with another girl to a different apartment. We are waiting to hear from the doctor about her surgery this week. Many days this month I met one-on-one with different ladies to listen and encourage them. Online discipleship has continued and we just began the second book of four. Omega classes are busy with activities, mysteries to solve and lessons on friendship and Instafame. I hosted a baby shower for a young woman that has been coming to my church since the fall. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, food and games with lots of laughter. Then this Sunday she talked with my pastor about getting baptized! Praise the Lord! This month we finally had really cold weather and snow, off and on, for 3 weeks! So I finally got to build snowmen and even went skating on the frozen Mures River! A good friend came for a 3 day weekend so I hosted a game night and a movie night, to meet the ladies here. We had a great time! Please pray for Sima and Sarita, immigration denied their work permit, so they must prepare to return to Nepal and are really struggling. Please also lift up plans for the WIM Retreat in April. For wisdom as I prepare the lessons, funds for the 4 coming to serve, and for more to join our team. There are already 16 ladies registered to attend! If you'd like to sponsor a scholarship, they are \$60 each, which can be sent with a note (WIM scholarship) to my account at GlobalGrace.org. Thank you so much!



Gathering together!

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." John 6:35

And let us eat . . .

Food...something all people need no matter their station, education or location. It's advertised on every medium, offered in almost every place - restaurants, shops, malls, gas stations, schools, businesses and more. Everywhere you look, there is food. No surprise that a large part of my budget goes towards food...and it's not so cheap these days. I'm always making a pot of soup for Bible Study, or cookies, muffins, cakes, salads and lots more with a variety of hot and cold beverages, not just to enjoy with people at my home, but also for bringing to different activities.

Working among multiple people groups has taught me that good food breaks down barriers. I may decorate and plan like Martha Stewart, but the whole meaning behind what I do comes from the examples of hospitality throughout scripture. Many times in the old testament a significant moment was marked with food. In fact, food is mentioned over 1,200 times in the Bible!

There are covenant meals, like when the angels visited Abraham before destroying Sodom in Genesis 18 and when God shared a meal with the elders of Israel at Mount Sinai in Exodus 24:1-11. Eating together was also used to seal treaties as with Jacob and Laban sharing a meal in Genesis 31:51-54. Food was not just a symbol of hospitality, but also friendship. David welcomed Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth to eat at his table in II Samuel 9. While the Shunammite woman's care for Elisha in II Kings 4 teaches us how important it is to welcome others to our table, no matter what we have to offer. Probably the most famous of meals, the Passover, was instituted in Exodus 12, commemorating God's deliverance of the Israelites and is still celebrated today.

As we move on to the New Testament, food continues to be on center stage. In the gospels, Jesus' first miracle is during a wedding reception in John 2:1-11. Then we find Him feeding 5,000 in Mark 6 and 4,000+ in Mark 8, both miraculous. In Luke 5:29-32 we find Jesus at Matthew's banquet, dining with tax collectors and sinners, challenging the religious authorities. A famous meal with Mary and Martha takes place in Luke 10:38-42 and while eating at Simon the leper's house, right before the Passover, Mary washed Jesus' feet with spikenard in John 12:1-8. In the Upper room, we read in Mark 14 of how Jesus breaks bread with the disciples one last time before the crucifixion. Then after His resurrection, Jesus is preparing a breakfast for the disciples on the beach in Luke 24, proving that He was indeed risen from the dead. The theme continues into the Early church as believers ate together daily in their homes with glad hearts as recorded in Acts 2:46. Finally we see the description of the marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19:6-9 where a joyous celebration marks the union between the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His bride (the church) fulfilling God's redemptive work. Hallelujah!

In my defense of why I'm cooking, sharing and giving food all the time, I'm just copying Jesus. He proved that food and fellowship really do go together, creating spaces for good and meaningful conversations. Deep hurts, traumas, confessions and griefs have been shared around my table along with celebrations of joy, laughter and thanksgiving. Food establishes a safe zone, where people feel cared for and loved. This in turn opens their hearts to learn of the Saviour and how much He cares for and loves them.

In the last month, I have been out to meet several different ladies for coffee only to realize that they have not eaten the whole day! At first, they refuse to let me buy them a meal, feeling shame. Then I explain how the money is not mine, but God's and that I'm sure He would want them to eat. Once they have eaten they are much more at peace and with a full belly they can think clearer. I pray that in these moments, they get a glimpse of Jesus love for them. So friend, who have you shared a meal with in the last week? Who needs to come and sit at your table to hear the good news of a Saviour that died and rose again to give them new and eternal life? May the Lord lead you to invite in those He has already put in your path in the days ahead.