

TABLE TALK

Co-Creating Belonging Through Conversation

It's a interactive dialogue toolkit for intercultural church member that uses structured small-group discussion to reduce social awkwardness and foster more meaningful connection in church across backgrounds.

How Might We Statement

How might we reduce language and cultural barriers to make worship more inclusive for immigrant and non-Korean members to fully engage in worship and community life?

This HMW statement led to the creation of Table Talk — a participatory format that shifts power from the pulpit to the circle, from performance to conversation.

Inclusion doesn't come from being spoken to — it comes from being invited to speak. Members feel more connected when they are given space to share their own voices, rather than simply receiving a message.

The Community

This design response is created for a church-based, intergenerational community that includes immigrant and non-Korean members.

While the context is a faith space, the design also considers how language, cultural norms, and social expectations affect inclusion across diverse community settings, especially in multilingual and multicultural spaces.

The Problem or Opportunity

Although Friends Church aims to be welcoming, language and cultural barriers often cause non-Korean and immigrant members to feel like passive observers rather than active participants.

There is a missed opportunity for building deeper belonging and shared ownership of worship and community life.

Insight Statement

The church wants to be welcoming, but hasn't fully achieved it yet.

(Insight: The church brings people together across different languages and cultures by focusing on "love" and "welcoming" as key strategies to attract and keep members-like what the name "Friends Church" does.)

Visuals Response



Design Response Create Changes for Community

Table Talk creates a repeatable ritual of dialogue that centers diverse voices — especially those who often feel hesitant due to language or cultural norms. By embedding a simple structure for shared conversation after each sermon, the design lowers the threshold for participation.

If implemented regularly, this intervention could:

- Normalize multilingual and cross-cultural exchange
- Shift leadership dynamics by empowering new facilitators
- Foster emotional bonds through shared vulnerability and mutual listening

In time, the goal is not just more participation — but a more transformative and co-created sense of community.