PLATE II · A WORKED EXAMPLE

# *The big family dinner, on one hand.*

Twelve people are coming, and there is only one oven. Here is the whole plan, one finger at a time.

For Thanksgiving, Christmas, Eid, Lunar New Year, or any long table.

I · THUMB · THUMBS UP

## *Picture it*

Why are we doing this? What does done look like?

> Everyone is fed by 4, and I actually sit down to eat. It ends when the last dish is put away, around 8.

YOUR PLAN

II · POINTER · DIRECTION

## *Map it*

What comes first, and who owns each piece?

| WHAT | WHO | BY WHEN |
|---|---|---|
| Guest list and headcount | Me | Monday |
| Shopping list | Me | Wednesday |
| Dessert and drinks | My sister | Arrives at 2 |
| Table, chairs and plates | My partner | Saturday night |
| Main dish in the oven | Me | 11 am |

YOUR PLAN

III · MIDDLE · CHALLENGE

## *Try it*

What's the smallest test before we commit?

> Cook the one new dish this weekend, for four. If it doesn't work, swap in an old favorite. Set the table once to check that twelve chairs really fit.

YOUR PLAN

IV · RING · COMMITMENT

## *Launch it*

Who's doing what, by when? Say it back.

> Send one message to the family group with the list. Ask each person to reply with their part and their time.

YOUR PLAN

V · PINKY PROMISE

## *Close it*

Did we keep the promise? Keep, drop, try.

> *Keep* the shared list. *Drop* the third kind of potatoes. *Try* starting an hour earlier.

YOUR PLAN

## *Then, on the day and after*

### WATCH IT

Check the oven at noon and again at 2. If something is late, move one dish, not the whole meal.

### HIGH FIVE

Thank everyone who brought a dish or stayed to wash up. Say their names.

### WAVE

Wave goodbye and keep your notes. Next year, wave hello and start from there.

*picture it · map it · try it · launch it · close it*