



COME TO THE TABLE

SERMON #5 DISCUSSION GUIDE: Week of October 10, 2021

Scripture: Luke 14:15-24

Big Idea: Jesus is asking “Won’t you be my neighbor?”

Discussion Questions:

1. From your experience, why do so many say “No” to God’s banquet? What can you do to help people overcome their hesitation?
2. 7.6 billion people have eating in groups in common. Have you ever thought about eating as a simple common ground? Is there someone in your “neighbor circle” you need to share your table with?
3. An invitation to the table says, “Step into my life” and “Won’t you be my neighbor?” When did you last give an invitation to someone to join you at the table? How did it go? What was it like?
4. If cooking isn’t a skill of yours, what can you do creatively to still gather around a table?

Action Steps:

This week, grab a meal with a neighbor. No agenda, no overthinking, just good food, and good conversation.

Here are a few more ideas to get started:

1. Invite a coworker to coffee or lunch.
2. Invite a neighbor over for a dinner.
3. Hang out on your front porch with a glass of sweet tea or a refreshing drink.
4. Hang out on your apartment’s rooftop.
5. Grill out at the local park with some.
6. Grab a meal with teammates after a kid’s sporting event.
7. Plan a progressive dinner.
8. Meet up with neighbors at a happy hour.

Come to the Table Sermon Content Review:

Notes:

When I was growing up, I can remember sitting around the table with my family and having a meal. It was a time to come together and talk and laugh and just be a family. Today, I continue to do that with my boys, and we make this an intentional time to connect in an otherwise cluttered and busy schedule. Sharing a meal is an intimate and personal experience.

When we eat together, we share something that has been shared over thousands of years. All the way back to Genesis, we see narratives of families eating together and partaking in meals. From the Passover meal to the last supper, meals have been a time where people are called to engage each other in a moment of brother and sisterhood.

Jesus says that our mission is to bring more people into the family of God and he talks about that we do that by inviting people to our tables. Jesus tells the story of a rich man who was throwing a party and when those who were invited declined, then he began to invite all of the poor, the orphaned, and the outcasts to come dine at his table. In this way, the table was full and more people were brought into relationship with God. This is what we are called to do as well.

We are moving towards a day when we will all sit around the great table of God. How do our tables compare? And how can our tables become an environment in which relationships can begin and conversations can start to move people from our table to His?

Gospel: Jesus welcomed all at his table. When he calls us to communion, he reminds us that all who are thirsty can come and drink and be nourished. And what gives us true nourishment? The blood of Christ. Jesus said in John 7 *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'*" John 7:37b-38. Because Jesus said that the true water of life came from him and would fill us all. So, now it is our mission to invite others to our tables to help them drink of this full life that Jesus offers.

REFERENCE: <https://national.cc/media/neighbor>