

Meals with Jesus (6 of 7)

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, August 28th, 2022



Series Focus: When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that he ate and drank...a lot. So much so that he was accused of being a glutton and a drunkard! Jesus was constantly sharing meals with his disciples, with religious leaders, and with the outcasts of society. This was one of the main ways he engaged with others. And when someone ate with Jesus, they went away changed. In this 7-part summer sermon series, we'll explore the blessings that God provides when we experience his radical hospitality, and we'll be challenged to open our lives to others around the table.

Sermon Title: Stories From the Table

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:35; Acts 2:46; Romans 12:9-11

Sermon Focus: Have you ever noticed how people tend to lean in and listen carefully when a speaker starts to tell a personal story from their life? Sharing stories of our own experiences (or the experiences of others) can help us visualize a concept or a teaching lived out. Stories also help us connect emotionally to the speaker and message, which can then inspire us to action and change. In *Stories From the Table*, we have invited several congregants to share how they have discovered God's blessings at the table. May their stories move us all to follow Jesus with a table-centered faith.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Reflect together on the three stories you heard this past Sunday. What made the greatest impact on them? How did hospitality bring them closer to God? How did each person's story challenge and/or encourage you?
2. Do you have any memorable meal stories to share with your group? Have there been times where you were acutely aware of God's presence at the table?
3. According to Acts 2:44-46 and what we know of the early church, the "family" extended beyond biological relationships, and the good news reconstituted everyone around Christ. Think about how the nuclear family has been idolized in society as well as the church. How do you see this happening? What are the challenges that we face in living into a new understanding of family?
4. Who in our church do you think is most likely to be overlooked when it comes to inviting guests to your table at home? Furthermore, what times of the year should we be most sensitive to the reality that some people are often forgotten?
5. In response to this series, have you had a meal with anyone (beyond your own family) lately? Share your experience with your small group.