

Discussion Questions

July 9, 2023

B.L.E.S.S.

Jesus Came Eating and Drinking



1. Describe a time where sharing a meal with someone turned an acquaintance into a friend.

Discuss: Discuss what you think it is about sharing a meal together that creates deeper connections so quickly?

2. Re-read Matthew 9:9-13

- Why do you think Jesus chose to eat with tax collectors & sinners?
- Why were the Pharisees so angry?
- What does it mean that Jesus "desires mercy, not sacrifice?"
- What does this story teach us about Jesus?

3. In the book BLESS, Dave Ferguson gives a few reason/excuses as to why we don't invite people to meals as often as we would like to. Some examples are: "I'm not comfortable having people in my home," or "my home is too messy." "I don't have time," or "I'm a terrible cook," or "I don't know what to say."

Which of these reasons/excuses or others, do you resonate with most for why it is hard to invite people over for meals?

Discuss what ways you could overcome the negative talk and make it a regular practice.

4. Read the parable Jesus tells during a meal in Luke 14:7-14.

Summarize the parable in your own words.

The thing that made people more angry at Jesus than anything else, was the kind of people Jesus shared meals with. He was called a "friend of tax collectors and sinners," the pharisees said it as an attack, Jesus wore the phrase as a badge of honor.

What does it look like for us to live out this heart of Jesus expressed in the parable today?



Matthew 9:9-13 (NLT)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Luke 19:1-5, 7 (CSB)

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house." ...All who saw it began to complain, "He's gone to stay with a sinful man."

Really good reasons (excuses) we don't invite people to share a meal

- "I'm not comfortable having people in my home."
- "I'm not a good cook"
- "I won't know what to say"
- "I don't have time"
- "It's too complicated/difficult"

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NLT)

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. **Do this in remembrance of me.**" In the same way, he took the

cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. **Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.**"

NT Wright - Simply Jesus

"When Jesus himself wanted to explain to his disciples what his forthcoming death was all about, he didn't give them a theory; he gave them a meal."

Revelation 19:6-9 (NLT)

Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: "Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear." For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

Taking Communion

Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24.

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Step 2: Pray a prayers of thanks. Thanking Jesus for His body that is broken for us. Then eat the bread together

Step 3: Read 1 Corinthians 11:25-26.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Step 4: Pray a prayer of Thanks. Thanking Jesus for His blood that was shed for us. Then drink the cup.

Step 5: Pray out as you feel led, thanking Him for His love and to empower us to be His body and invite outsiders to be insiders

50 Family Dinner Conversation Starters

Taken from sixsistersstuff.com

1. *What was the best part of your day?*
2. *If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?*
3. *If you could be a famous person for a week, who would you be and why?*
4. *If you could have any superpower, which would you choose?*
5. *If you had one wish (and you can't wish for more wishes), what would you wish for and why?*
6. *If you could eat just one food everyday for a month and nothing else, what would it be?*
7. *What is your biggest fear?*
8. *What is one way you helped another person today?*
9. *If you could trade places with your parents for a day, what would you do differently?*
10. *If you could have one dream come true, what would it be?*
11. *If you could pick your own name, what would it be?*
12. *If you could be an animal, what would you be and why?*
13. *Which character in a book best describes you and why?*
14. *If you could see your future, where will you be in ten years?*
15. *If you could eat dinner with any famous person (dead or alive), who would you choose and why?*
16. *If you could have any pet, what would you choose and why?*
17. *What is your favorite childhood memory?*
18. *What three words would you use to describe yourself?*
19. *What are the qualities that make you a good friend?*
20. *What is the nicest thing a friend has ever done for you?*
21. *What is your favorite movie and why?*
22. *What is your favorite family tradition?*
23. *What is your favorite sport to play?*
24. *If you could play any instrument, what would it be and why?*
25. *What is your favorite holiday and why?*
26. *What is one thing you are grateful for today?*
27. *What is your favorite book and why?*
28. *What has been the happiest day of your life so far and why?*
29. *What do you want to be when you grow up and why?*
30. *Where would you like to go on our next family vacation?*
31. *What is one thing you could have done better today?*
32. *Who is one person in your life you are thankful for and why?*
33. *What is the craziest thing you've ever eaten?*
34. *What is your earliest memory?*
35. *What is your most embarrassing moment?*
36. *What is your least favorite chore?*
37. *If you could only eat three foods the rest of your life, what would they be?*
38. *If you could have dinner with anyone (past or present), who would it be and why?*
39. *If you could stay up all night, what would you do?*
40. *What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?*
41. *What is one thing you couldn't live without?*
42. *Who is your best friend and why?*
43. *If you had to live in another country, which one would you choose?*
44. *What is your greatest talent or ability?*
45. *What two items would you grab if your house was on fire?*
46. *If you could travel back in time, where would you go?*
47. *What is something you want to learn how to do and why?*
48. *What would you do if you were a king or a queen?*
49. *If you were invisible for a day, what would you want to observe?*
50. *If you had the attention of the world for just 10 seconds, what would you say?*