

NEW HEIGHTS

DISCUSSION

RECLAIMED

Open Table Life Group Discussion

Big Idea

This weekend, we continued our “Reclaimed” series talking about the Open Table. We talked about how Jesus ate with anyone. There was no one who was too far away from God to sit at the table with Jesus, and when we follow Jesus we can show the same love to people by welcoming them to our table.

Read

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Luke 7:36-50 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said. “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Luke 15:1-2 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Little About Me

Take a moment and share a time you ate with someone that made you uncomfortable. What was that experience like?

Discussion Questions

1. In looking at the above passages, which one speaks to you and why?
2. How does the life of Jesus, in Scripture, inspire you to be inclusive in the way that you live your life?
3. If you have shared your table with others in the past, what happened? How do you think that you could impact others' lives by sharing your life with them?

Prayer

"Lord, I realize the power of sharing a meal with someone, and how it communicates a message of love. Please reveal to me someone who needs the love of God, that I can share a meal with."

Next Step

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 says, "As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too."

We have an amazing opportunity to share our lives with people, and when we do, it can model Jesus to them. Think of someone that needs the love of God, and invite them over for a meal.

Leader Tip

Share a time when God used you to invite someone to either coffee or a meal to encourage someone who needed it.