



# The TABLE

## The Cultural Table

**Matthew 10:2-5; 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 9:22, Acts 10, Galatians 2:11-14**

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. As we enter our new one-year rally (The Table) as a church, who has God placed on your heart to invite to a table?
2. The Table has become an endangered species. What can you do to protect and preserve it for your life?
3. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and 1 Corinthians 9:22. What did Jesus command us to do? Notice how much the word "all" is mentioned. How does Paul follow Jesus' command? Why do you think we tend to stay to ourselves and resist going to "all people"?
4. Part of going to "all nations" (*ethnos* in the Greek) is to spend time with other ethnic groups. Tables can connect us to people who are different from us. Read Acts 10:9-16, 23-28. What was God's message to Peter? Why is it valuable to be exposed to different ethnic traditions? Do you have friends from different cultures? How have these friendships enhanced your life?
5. What is your favorite ethnic food (Mexican, Asian, Indian, etc.)? Why do you like it? What good restaurants would you recommend?
6. Read Galatians 2:11-14. Peter had been eating with the Gentiles, but he stops. Why? Discuss the role of social peer pressure in tempting us to sin. How has the pressure of family and friends over the years affected how you view and interact with people of other races? What does Paul do to Peter and why? In what way is prejudice a denial of the gospel? See also Galatians 3:8.
7. If you are comfortable, share your own journey with prejudice. Where have you overcome? Where do you still struggle? Who is someone from a different ethnic group that you could invite to a table?
8. Read Matthew 10:2-5. The Gospel writers intentionally used the political labels of "tax collector" and "Zealot" to identify Matthew and Simon. These two political identities were on the opposite extreme ends of the political spectrum in the days of Jesus, yet these are the very ones Jesus "sent out" on mission to start the Christian church. Why do you think Jesus chose them as part of his inner circle of 12 disciples? What does this say about the relationship between our political views and the mission of Jesus?
9. How hard is it for you to get along with people who have different political views from you? What is your biggest challenge? How does the example of Jesus help you? Who is someone from a different political group that you could invite to a table?
10. How can this group pray for you and our church this week? Pray for people to invite to your Church Table, Community Table, and Cultural Table.