

Meals with Jesus (2 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, July 31st, 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: Discovering Community

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-50; Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 11:20-22

Sermon Focus: Jesus once received an invitation to have dinner at the home of a Pharisee, a religious leader who prided himself in being separate from sinners. The guests were expecting good food, pleasurable company, and some stimulating conversation with the edgy rabbi from Nazareth. But when a notorious sinner showed up uninvited, things got *really* awkward. In the second message of our series, Pastor David challenges us to see the way God does, so we can discover Christ at the table.

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. Read Luke 7:36-50. What do you notice about this story? What thoughts and feelings do you have after hearing it? How is it encouraging or challenging?
2. Think about three main characters in this story: Jesus, the woman, and Simon the Pharisee. Put yourself in their shoes. Be honest. Can you relate to each of them? Who do you have the most difficult time relating to in your own life?
3. When Luke 7:36-50 is understood in its context, it's clear that the unnamed woman created an awkward (even appalling) scene for most people in the room. But there is no indication that Jesus was embarrassed by this woman's actions. While it appeared one way to the Pharisees, Jesus saw it as a true act of love and hospitality. What does this say about God? What does it say about how he feels about you and all your most embarrassing, misunderstood actions?
4. Pastor David gave us these "Table Takeaways" from Luke 7:36-50. Take some time to discuss each of these together. How do you see these in the story? Which takeaway resonates with you the most in this season of life?
 - God welcomes broken people at his table and he sees what is in a person's heart, despite appearances.
 - Your sight (how you view others and events) can be clouded by your own sin and self-righteousness (e.g., Simon the Pharisee)
 - The condition of your heart and spiritual vision will determine the depth of your hospitality toward others.
 - In order to discover God's community, we must see ourselves as equals and gather in love and grace.
 - When Jesus is at the table, souls are healed.
5. How is the Spirit speaking to you about this message? How do you think God is leading you to be a hospitable host and discover a deeper level of community? Has he put someone on your heart that he wants you to invite to dinner?