



WEEK ONE | THE TABLE OF INCLUSION

This is a great series, not because we all like to eat, but because it reveals a surprising and mostly overlooked way that Jesus carried out his plan to save the world. It's all about people. There is no salvation extended without relationships, between Savior and saved as well as saved and sinner. I've always heard that food brings people together. Jesus didn't start it, but he definitely used it to save souls.

GETTING STARTED

What are some memories you have being around a table or having meals?

What is it about meals and food that bring people together?

TALK ABOUT IT

When you think of the Gospel, talk about what it means to be forgiven, then what it means to have fellowship.

Read Matthew 9:9–13 (Jesus eats at Matthew's house)

How has our fast-paced lifestyles threatened the power of gathering at the table?

What are we missing out on regarding how Jesus used meals in his ministry?

Many studies have told us about the benefits for the children of families that eat dinner together regularly. If that wasn't your experience, it doesn't mean your kids are at risk. However, it does reveal what Jesus knew. Good things happen around our tables when we share and spend time together.

Why do you think Jesus made the bold move to eat with Matthew's friends knowing who they were?

As Christians, what practices or actions do we take that communicate inclusion?

How about exclusion?

APPLY IT

Jesus said (Mt. 9:13), *"For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."*

How should this statement trouble and humble us?

****Plan a meal together. Get out the calendar now and schedule it. Great things happen around a table.**

PRAY

Nothing will make you feel more like a community than this time. Share your joys, your burdens, your victories, your fears. This is the place to do it.