



A lot of life happens around tables. Jesus very intentionally spent time with people around tables eating and He invites us to meet with Him at the table as well. During this special series and group event we want to *reclaim the table* as a meeting ground for our lives with each other and with Jesus.

One of our favorite ways to experience 'the good life' together is through the sharing of meals. We invite you to slow down, share a meal, and practice biblical community with others in your church family.

We want to focus on sharing meals together because in the Bible food is a constant reminder of God's goodness and provision. It's also a time where Jesus, by entering one's home, entered into the hearts of those in attendance. Coming around the table is by its very nature an act of hospitality and grace.

Time after time, food is front and center in celebration and remembrance. One of the last things Jesus did before he was taken to be crucified was to share a meal with his closest friends! When we sit around a table together, we not only get to share a meal, but the stories, struggles, and celebrations of each others' lives. What a gift!

PRO TIPS for the Table Group Dinners!

PEOPLE

When it comes to your weekly dinner crew, the sky's the limit! Stick with your current small group, gather some folks you know from church you've been wanting to get to know better, or invite a few neighbors. These dinners are a great way to get to know people better than before.

Note: these dinners are NOT for just one person to host the rest! A communal dinner means everyone contributes ingredients, skills, and time in order to gather, prepare, and eat the meal together. Even the kids can join in!

A word about alcohol: Please be mindful and sensitive to members of your group who might be in recovery. Honoring one another is greater than our having a drink with dinner.

PLAN

Don't stress yourself out by waiting until the last second—good things take time to prepare, so plan ahead this week! This honors your own time and allows you to be able to just be present once the day comes for your dinner. Pick a date and time, send invites to your people, and delegate who's bringing which ingredients so that there are no last minute panic grocery store trips. Pray over the evening ahead of time. This will help you look forward to these each week, rather than be stressed about them!

PACE

When thinking of these dinners, think slow and non-rushed. That's the goal. This may not always be possible, but in life where everything can feel rushed and busy, it's something we can strive for. When you create your plan to eat together, make sure to set time to sit and have intentional conversations with your people.

*A bonus pro tip for this one: put your phones away— you won't need 'em.

Week 1

Before your meal — Have your table set with your plates, food, drinks, a candle, and communion supplies. Settle into your seats, put your phones away for the **WHOLE MEAL!** Be familiar with your Table Discussion Questions being sure to involve other members with readings, questions and prayers.



Light the Candle

Light the candle at your table as a representation of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Open in prayer, inviting Him into your group time; to join you in love for one another, to grow together, to become an increasingly safe community allowing for authenticity wrapped in grace for one another.



Discussion

This week's discussion focuses on Jesus' meal with tax collectors and sinners at Levi's house as found in the accounts of Matthew 9, Mark 2, and Luke 5.

Use the "Talk About It" guide found in the Ashley Ridge Church app by pressing the "Media" icon on the bottom of the screen and selecting the "RECLAIMED" message series choosing this week's message.



Confession/Prayer

Following your discussion, take time to pray specifically for each other on how the message and the discussion can be applied to a deeper growth of faith and trust.

Confession is full of rich meaning and we most often think of exposing our deepest sins to a pastor or confidant. If your group has gotten to a point of this level of relationship and authenticity, follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and provide a safe place full of grace for healing to happen as James 5 teaches. However, our intention here is that your small group start with baby steps encouraging each other to become increasingly self-aware of where one is falling short or there is clear need for intentional growth steps in the faith journey specifically connected to the discussion of Jesus' encounters at the table.



Share in Communion

Recommended experience all 4 weeks but optional weeks 1-3. See page 7 for Communion Guide.

Week 2

Before your meal — Have your table set with your plates, food, drinks, a candle, and communion supplies. Settle into your seats, put your phones away for the **WHOLE MEAL!** Be familiar with your Table Discussion Questions being sure to involve other members with readings, questions and prayers.



Light the Candle

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Discussion

This week's discussion focuses on Jesus' meal with Simon the Leper and the account of Mary anointing His feet as found in John 12, Matthew 26, and Mark 14.

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Share in Communion

Recommended experience all 4 weeks but optional weeks 1-3. See page 7 for Communion Guide.

Week 3

Before your meal — Have your table set with your plates, food, drinks, a candle, and communion supplies. Settle into your seats, put your phones away for the WHOLE MEAL! Be familiar with your Table Discussion Questions being sure to involve other members with readings, questions and prayers.



Light the Candle

Light the candle at your table as a representation of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Open in prayer, inviting Him into your group time; to join you in love for one another, to grow together, to become an increasingly safe community allowing for authenticity wrapped in grace for one another.



Discussion

This week's discussion focuses on Jesus' meal with a Pharisee who as amazed Jesus didn't ceremonially wash His hands as found in the account of Luke 11.

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Share in Communion

Recommended experience all 4 weeks but optional weeks 1-3. See page 7 for Communion Guide.

Week 4

Before your meal — Have your table set with your plates, food, drinks, a candle, and communion supplies. Settle into your seats, put your phones away for the **WHOLE MEAL**! Be familiar with your Table Discussion Questions being sure to involve other members with readings, questions and prayers.



Light the Candle

Light the candle at your table as a representation of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Open in prayer, inviting Him into your group time; to join you in love for one another, to grow together, to become an increasingly safe community allowing for authenticity wrapped in grace for one another.



Discussion

This week's discussion focuses on Jesus' meal with the disciples at what is called the Last Supper as found in the accounts of Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22.

Use the "Talk About It" guide found in the Ashley Ridge Church app by pressing the "Media" icon on the bottom of the screen and selecting the "RECLAIMED" message series choosing this week's message.



Confession/Prayer

Following your discussion, take time to pray specifically for each other on how the message and the discussion can be applied to a deeper growth of faith and trust.

Confession is full of rich meaning and we most often think of exposing our deepest sins to a pastor or confidant. If your group has gotten to a point of this level of relationship and authenticity, follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and provide a safe place full of grace for healing to happen as James 5 teaches. However, our intention here is that your small group start with baby steps encouraging each other to become increasingly self-aware of where one is falling short or there is clear need for intentional growth steps in the faith journey specifically connected to the discussion of Jesus' encounters at the table.



Share in Communion

Recommended experience all 4 weeks but optional weeks 1-3. See page 7 for Communion Guide.

Communion Guide

Ingredients: 1 loaf of bread (regular or gluten free), 1 bottle of red wine or grape juice

Please read ahead and prepare accordingly, as this is not a traditional method for taking communion and involves the entire group's participation!

Reading 1

Luke 22:17-18 ESV

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Take the bottle of wine or juice and divide it among the group in equal portion just as the Scripture said.

Reading 2

Luke 22:19 ESV

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Take the bread and break it. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gift of Jesus and then divide the bread in equal parts among those who are in attendance.

Reading 3

Luke 22:20 ESV

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Okay this next section has two parts...

Pick someone to start you off and one by one, moving around the table, share a story of how thankful you are for God in your life. Also share an area of your life where you need more of God's hope, love, joy or peace.

It's as simple as completing these two sentences:

I am thankful to Jesus for _____.

I need more of God's hope, love, joy or peace in _____.

As we share in the sufferings of Christ through His death, we can share with one another in our thanksgiving and confession. After each person has shared both sentences, ask the entire group to hold up a piece of their portion of bread and say, "Me, too!"

Dip the bread in your individual cup and then eat that small portion. Repeat after each person shares at your table.

Once you share and take communion, you may eat! Enjoy!

Some Dinner Conversation Prompts

LEVEL 1

If you were invisible for a whole day, what would you do?

What's your grocery store strategy?

If you could master any skill, what would it be?

What's something you found joy in this week?

LEVEL 2

What was your last best day?

What was the best thing that happened to you this year?

Who has had the biggest impact on your life this year?

How have you shown someone you love them this week?

LEVEL 3

What word would you use to describe this year of your life?

Which lesson took you the longest to unlearn?

What are you hopeful for in 2024?

What is an area of your life that you need peace in?

Meal PLANS

On the following pages, you'll find food options for the 4 weeks of Table Groups. These include an app, main dish, sides and dessert. We've provided you 3 categories, Fancy Pants, Mid-Level Chef and That'll Do, depending on the type of time, prep and dinners you are having.

FANCY PANTS is for those of you who have dinner groups who want to go ALL OUT on your meals- these are the more intricate and time consuming combinations. But don't worry, you can do it!

MID-LEVEL CHEF is for those of you who have groups who love food, want to test their cooking skills but maybe stay away from the fanciest options. These meals are really good and still need all hands on deck.

THAT'LL DO is a plan for those of you who may want to spend more time on the people rather than the cooking of the meal! Plus, these are helpful to your wallet, but still really delicious.

Lastly, a reminder: These are optional menu guides to take you through these dinners. But if you want to create your own custom menu with your group, then go for it! The goal is to enjoy the gradual process of being together through cooking, eating and celebrating!

DINNER MENUS

Food options for all 4 weeks include an app, main dish, side and dessert

Week 1: Fam Faves

FANCY PANTS

APP: Spinach & artichoke dip
MAIN: Pot Roast
SIDE: Mashed potatoes
DESSERT: Homemade cream pies

MID-LEVEL CHEF

APP: Baked brie with fig jam & crackers
MAIN: Chicken Pot Pie
SIDE: Roasted broccoli
DESSERT: Banana pudding

THAT'LL DO

APP: Charcuterie board
MAIN: Sheet pan sausage & roasted veggies
SIDE: Rice
DESSERT: Chocolate chip cookies

Week 2: Mexican Night

FANCY PANTS

APP: Guacamole & chips
MAIN: Chicken Tortilla Soup
SIDE: Mexican street corn
DESSERT: Tres Leches Cake

MID-LEVEL CHEF

APP: Bean Dip
MAIN: Quesadilla bar
(everyone pick your fillings)
SIDE: Texas Caviar
DESSERT: Snickerdoodle cookies

THAT'LL DO

APP: Chips, salsa & queso
MAIN: Loaded Nacho Bar
SIDE: Refried beans
DESSERT: Ice cream sundae bar

DINNER MENUS

Food options for all 4 weeks include an app, main dish, side and dessert

Week 3: Sandwiches

FANCY PANTS

APP: Fried pickles
MAIN: Paninis with all the meats, cheeses, spreads/sauce options
SIDE: Homemade french fries with garlic aioli sauce
DESSERT: Homemade ice cream sandwiches

MID-LEVEL CHEF

APP: Tater tots with Yum Yum Sauce
MAIN: BBQ sliders on Hawaiian rolls
SIDE: Slaw
DESSERT: "Build your own" S'mores bar

THAT'LL DO

APP: Fruit & veggie tray
MAIN: A giant shareable Italian or Club style subs
SIDE: All of your favorite kinds of chips
DESSERT: Rice Krispie Treats

Week 4: Italian Night

FANCY PANTS

APP: Fried mozzarella sticks
MAIN: Chicken Parmesan & pasta or Lasagna
SIDE: A big Greek salad
DESSERT: Tiramisu

MID-LEVEL CHEF

APP: Bruschetta
MAIN: Spaghetti & meatballs
SIDE: Caesar salad
DESSERT: Canolis

THAT'LL DO

APP: Caprese skewers
MAIN: Homemade pizza with all the fun toppings
SIDE: Your favorite bagged salad!
DESSERT: A pizza cookie (store bought or homemade)