

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

IN JESUS' DAY, THE TABLE WAS MORE THAN A PLACE TO NOURISH THE BODY. IT WAS A PLACE TO NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND NOURISH THE SOUL. THROUGHOUT THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, WE SEE JESUS EATING WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, USING THOSE MOMENTS TO CONNECT WITH THE UP AND COMERS AND THE DOWN AND OUT, THE OUTCASTS AND THE IN-CROWD. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE AT THE TABLE WITH JESUS - EVEN A TRANSFORMED LIFE.

1 When you think about your schedule, what are the places and who are the people with whom you eat the most? How often do you eat on the go vs sitting down?

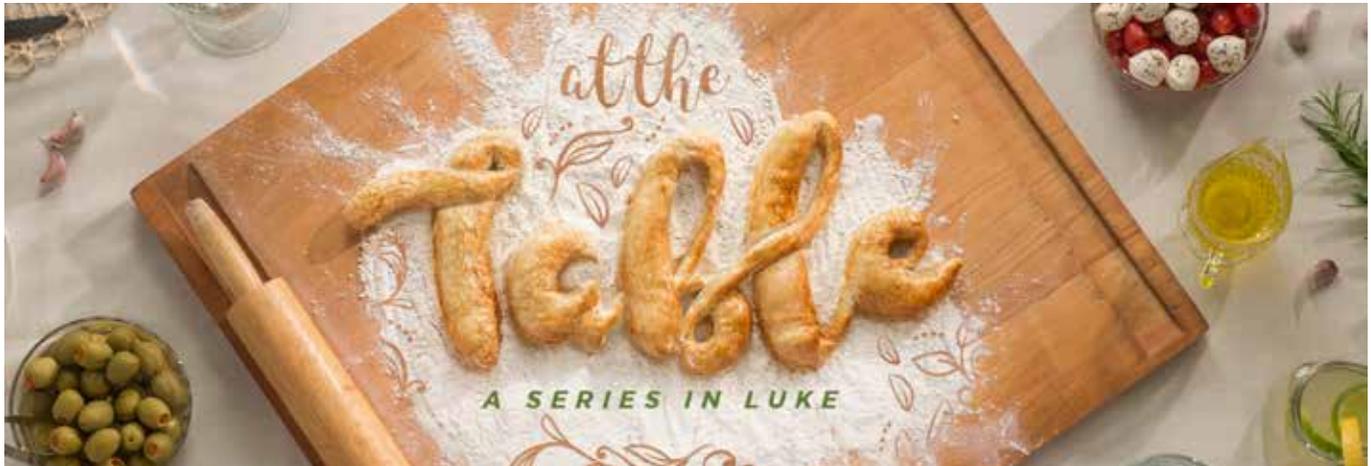
2 Read Luke 5:27-28. Levi was the last person people would expect to become a rabbi's disciple. But *at Jesus' table, your past doesn't disqualify you.* Why do so many of us feel marked or held back by our past? Why is it sometimes a struggle to believe that God really gives us a fresh start?

3 Read Luke 5:29. Levi immediately uses his influence to invite his outcast friends to dinner with Jesus. *At a follower's table, Jesus belongs at every meal.* What are the places where you eat and spend time with people who don't follow Jesus? What would it look like for Jesus to be part of those moments?

4 Read Luke 5:30. The religious leaders have a gift for complaint and criticism. What are ways we can stay humble to keep ourselves from looking down on others? How do we strike a balance between reaching the lost and not being corrupted by bad influences?

5 Read Luke 5:31-32. *If you know you're in need, you're exactly who Jesus wants at His table.* Ironically, Jesus isn't interested in the people who think they qualify. He wants the ones who know they don't? What are the ways you know you are in need, and how have you seen Jesus meet them (or how do you hope Jesus could meet your needs)? What does it mean to repent of your sin and trust Jesus?





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1 All of us have experienced some kind of memorable #mealfail. Share a funny or memorable moment at the table when things didn't go according to plan.

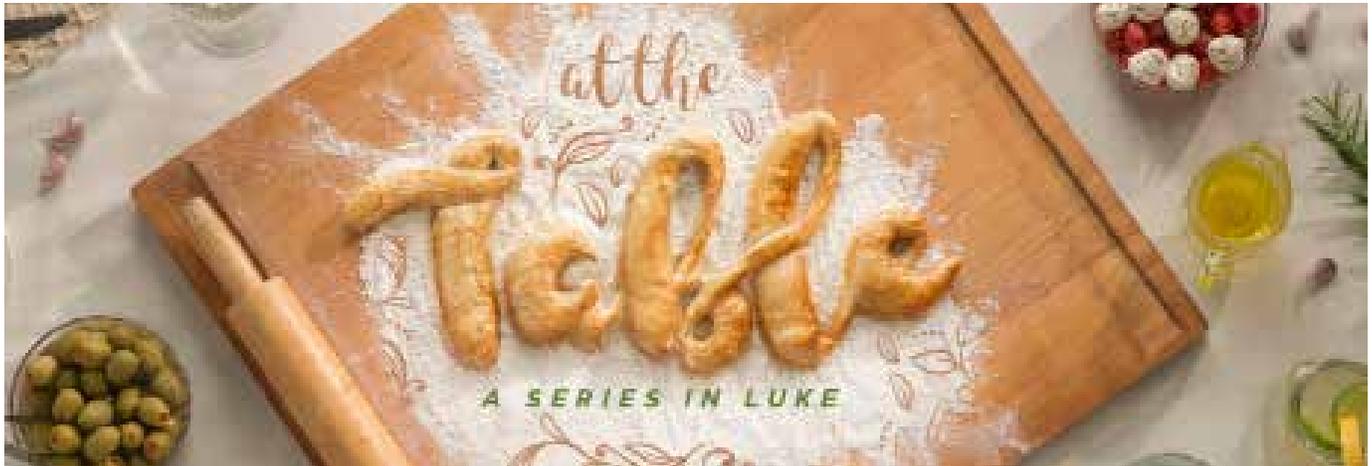
2 Read Luke 7:36. It shouldn't go unnoticed that Jesus willingly eats with a Pharisee, one of the groups he most criticized in his ministry. What does this tell us about Jesus and his heart for all people - including those who are religious or have been in church for a long time?

3 Read Luke 7:37-38. Jesus ends up at a table with a host who doesn't want him there and an unexpected guest who wants nothing more than to be with Jesus. Simon the Pharisee was doing what society expected of him - hosting a visiting rabbi - but his heart wasn't in it. In what ways has your relationship with God been founded on other people's expectations? Is there part of following Jesus that your heart isn't in? In what ways?

4 Read Luke 7:39-43. The message stated that *nothing grows our love for Jesus like experiencing his grace.* What does this parable help us understand about God's grace? Why does that matter?

5 Read Luke 7:44-50. This woman pours out what is most precious to her at Jesus' feet in an attempt to show him honor. What parts of your life could be used to honor God that are currently "sealed in a jar"? What are settings in your life where it would be risky or socially questionable to honor Jesus above all else?





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1 Have you sat at a big table full of great food? Whether fancy or informal, share a time from your life when you were at a great feast.

2 Read Luke 14:1-15. How does the discussion earlier in Jesus's meal with these religious leaders give us context for the story he's about to tell? What have we learned about these dinner guests?

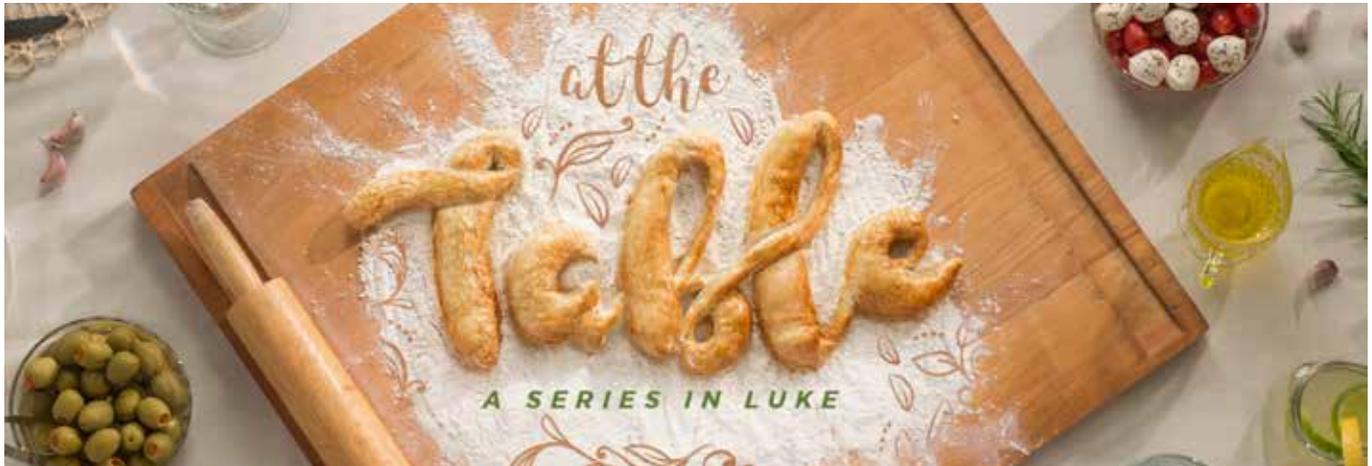
3 Read Luke 14:16-24. What grabs your attention in this story? Before discussing the sermon's take on it, share what you notice or what questions come up for you when you hear Jesus's parable.

4 The invited guests all make different excuses. Their excuses act as a warning for us: **don't let commitments to creation keep you from the presence of the creator.** What commitments or priorities in your life compete for the attention you might give to God?

5 All the excuses stem from new, pressing issues, which acts as another warning: **don't let the tyranny of the urgent keep you from experiencing the eternal.** When you hear the phrase "impulsive desires" what comes to mind?

6 Read Luke 14:21-23 again. This parable shows us **God's invitation is extravagantly inclusive and abundantly generous.** As God's invited guests, how do we experience his grace and generosity? As God's servants, how are we called to inclusivity and generosity?





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1 Here's a group kick-off question: if you could have anyone over to your house for dinner, who would it be? (Rules: they need to be currently living and not anyone you know personally).

2 Read Luke 19:1-4. Zacchaeus has a few obstacles to seeing Jesus - some are personal (his height) & some are social (the crowd). What barriers keep people from seeing Jesus in our world?

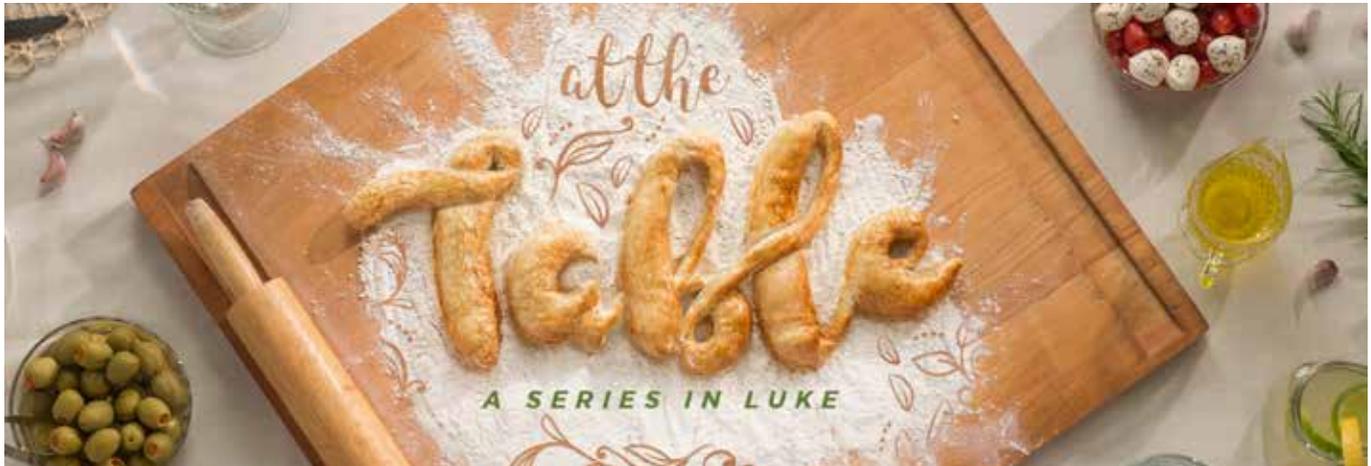
3 Read Luke 19:5-7. We see that **Jesus reaches out** to Zacchaeus. First question: What risks was Jesus taking in calling out to Zacchaeus? Follow up thought: Luke makes a point to contrast the joy of Zacchaeus with the grumbling of the crowd. Why do you think he wants us to notice this? What does it tell us about grace in action?

4 When Jesus reaches out, **His grace reaches in.** All Zacchaeus wanted was a look at Jesus, but grace offers more than we expect. What does it mean to let Jesus into the innermost parts of your life? Why are we sometimes hesitant to give Jesus that kind of access?

5 Read Luke 19:8. It's only after an encounter with Jesus that Zacchaeus changes, because **new life flows out of what Jesus has done.** Do you think Christians let people belong before they expect them to behave? Why or why not? Follow up: How do we strike a balance between cheap grace that doesn't expect change and legalism that focuses on cleaning up your act to earn God's grace?

6 Read Luke 19:9-10. Sometimes in the Bible people reach out to God (see Psalm 145:18, for example). But in Luke 19, God is the one reaching out because **the power isn't in the process - it's in the person of Jesus.** What does this tell us about God's nature? What does it mean for you to follow Jesus' example of reaching out?





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1 Do you or your family keep any traditions at certain meals? Whether it's a dish your aunt always brings to Thanksgiving or a special plate someone eats off on their birthday, what happens regularly at special meals that you've done for a long time?

2 Read Luke 22:14-15. Jesus gathers with his closest friends during a time called Passover. What was the significance of Passover for the people of Israel? (*Extra credit: if anyone in your group has been to a seder meal, let them share some of what they remember from that experience.*)

3 Read Luke 22:19-20. Jesus takes bread and wine and calls them his body and blood. What do these words mean to you? How would you explain them to someone who is new to faith?

4 Read Luke 22:7 and 1 Peter 1:18-20. Luke makes a connection between the Passover lamb and Jesus, which the early church leaders continued to teach. Why did they think this was important to tell people?

5 The message of the Lord's Supper is: **Jesus protects and provides.** In what ways has God protected you? In what ways has God provided for you?

6 Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What does it mean to proclaim the Lord's death? How do our lives and words also further the message of the Lord's Supper?

