



Tables

Colossians 3:1-17; Various Luke "Table Passages"

OPEN

What have "tables" meant to you over the years?

Were your table experiences places of joy? Connection? Pain? Regret? Significance? Other?

What makes table gatherings and shared meals so special?

DISCUSS

Think about the different tables in your life. Being at a table says that we belong...That we have a place...That there are people around the table who trust us to be there.

- Have you ever been at a table when you realized you were no longer needed or welcomed? Explain.

Jesus was always around tables. Read the gospels and you see Jesus at tables: banquets, parties, intimate dinners, breaking bread, seizing teaching moments, and more. Interestingly, Jesus seemed to always recline at tables with those different than him...with those who others did not want at the table. At the tables of Jesus (and the early church), there were three things that defined the table. They were *welcoming* to all, *safe* to sit at, and *real* things (and discussion) took place.

Here are just a few table stories from the Book of Luke. For each, describe where you see them being welcoming, safe, and real (or not).

Bible	Welcoming	Safe	Real
Luke 7:36-50			
Luke 14:15-24			
Luke 22:14-23			

How can the tables in your life (home, work, social gatherings, coffee shops, restaurants, etc.) become more intentional for the sake of others?

When was the last time you invited someone to one of your tables that was in need (in some way) or were very different from you?

CLOSE

Colossians 3:1-17 is a theme verse for the *Everyday Christianity* series. Take a moment and read this passage. What does it have to say to us as we consider the significance of tables?

NEXT STEPS

- Reflect on the Bible verses in this study.
- Make one or more of your tables very intentional this week. Share with the group at your next meeting what happened.