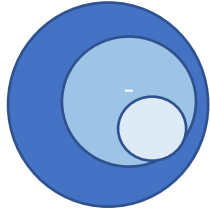


Meals Around the Table

Six Bible Studies from Luke

Introduction

At HTL we met in different sized groups:



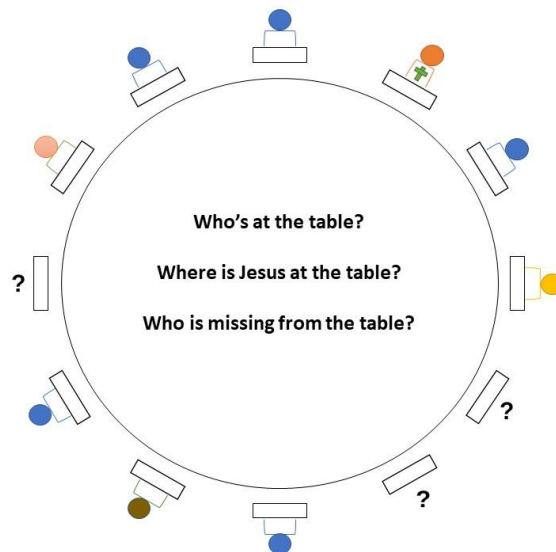
Whole Church (Celebration 100+)

Missional Community (Extended family 50 max)

Small Group (Intimate & Personal 8 – 12)

If we belong to HTL in any of the groups above, it can be said 'we are at the table with Jesus'. The question is who is missing and of course the answer will be the lost, those known to us and those not. Going forward we are going to use three questions to spur us on and refocus as together in these different sized groups we are following Jesus, making disciples, and raising disciples.

This set of bible studies is our starting place especially written to help us embrace these questions with stories where Jesus was physically around a meal table. Whilst they are designed for a small group they can still be used for personal study



Session 1: A Banquet for Jesus: Luke 5:27-32 & Luke 14:15-23

Session 2: Restoration: Luke 7:36-50 & Luke 15:11-32

Session 3: Salvation Invitation: Luke 19: 1-9, Luke 9:4 & 10:7

Session 4: Miraculous Meals: Luke 9:10-17, Luke 9:4 & 10:7

Session 5: Revelation: Luke 24:13-35, Luke 24:36-49

Session 6: Hospitality: Luke 10:38-42 & Luke 22:7-38

Further reading recommendations

- *A Meal with Jesus* by Tim Chester
- *Dare to Share* by Andrew Cannon

Meals Around the Table

Six Bible Studies from Luke's Gospel

Session 1 | **A banquet for Jesus Luke 5:27-32 & Luke 14:15-23**

Pre meeting notes:

Small Group meeting: The suggested timings are for a meeting that last 1 ½ hours.

Individual Study: If you belong to a small group but are absent for session one simply to do the study with your group in mind. If you do not belong to a missional community small group, remember you are part of the wider church, so why not do it with of your closest Christian friends in mind, imagining them as your small group.

Check In: Who's at the table? (20 mins)

Who is present as you meet and who not with you? Have a quick check in with each other as a whole group or pairs. Need an ice breaker? If so, ask everyone to share their favourite type of restaurant and why.

Allow 10 minutes for the sharing of testimonies of where you have seen God at work during the last week or two. If you are on your own, why not post a testimony on your group WhatsApp or to a friend.

Bible Study (50 MINS)

Read Luke 5:27-32

This is the first meal recorded in Luke's gospel. Levi was also named Matthew and was the one who wrote Matthew's gospel. He was tax collector and would have left a lucrative business to follow Jesus, so it is not surprising that he had the resources to throw Jesus a banquet, non the less it's a wonderful expression of his gratitude and honouring of Jesus.

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

Now consider this rhetorical question for 15 seconds.

- Would you and could you throw a banquet for Jesus?

Read Luke 14:15-23.

This parable relates to the meal before it which we look at in session four, but here we are looking at it with the challenge of the rhetorical question we have just asked ourselves.

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

Having studied these two passages - what is Jesus saying to you? What will be your response? I dare you to be creative and have fun.

Prayer and Worship (20 mins)

Take time to pray for those missing from the table, your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and the strangers you might encounter as you go about your daily life.

Before you leave

Gathering around food brings us together so here are a few suggestions to tickle your taste buds. Next time you meet have a bring and share meal together or hold a group cake bake off? Alternatively have a takeaway or try food tasting i.e., different cheeses, biscuits, chocolate, crisps, veg, fruit? Instead, you could bring a recipe to share or try different drinks and give your recommendations. Just have fun!

Meals Around the Table

Six Bible Studies from Luke's Gospel

Session 2 | **Restoration Luke 7:36-50 & Luke 15:11-32**

Pre meeting notes:

Small Group meeting: The suggested timings are for a meeting that last 1 ½ hours.

Individual Study: If you belong to a small group but are absent for session one simply to do the study with your group in mind. If you do not belong to a missional community small group, remember you are part of the wider church, so why not do it with of your closest Christian friends in mind, imagining them as your small group.

Check In: Who's at the table? (20 mins)

Who is present as you meet and who not with you? Have a quick check in with each other as a whole group or pairs. Need an ice breaker? Ask people to share the type of conversations they enjoy when at a dinner party.

Allow 10 minutes for the sharing of testimonies of where you have seen God at work during the last week or two. If you are on your own, why not post a testimony on your group WhatsApp or to a friend.

Bible Study (50 MINS)

Read Luke 7:36-50

Background information. In Luke's gospel this meal was at the home of Simon a Pharisee, a teacher of the law. The table would have been a low to the ground as it was the custom for dinner guests to recline whilst eating, so that their feet would be facing outwards. This is how the woman, who was an uninvited guest, was able to wash the feet of Jesus. The Alabaster jar used to hold perfume would have had the value of 500 denarii, which would have been approximately 20 months wages. Simon referred to the woman as being a sinner which was really shorthand for the term prostitute.

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people. In particular consider the subject of their conversation and how Jesus related to the people in the story.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

Now consider these rhetorical questions for 30 seconds

- How do I react when people come to the table who are different to me?
- How extravagant am I towards Jesus with all that I am and own?

Hold the answers in your mind as you look at the following parable and briefly discuss it.

Read Luke 15:11-32

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus (or in this case the Father) at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

Having studied these two passages what is Jesus saying to you? To whom do you need to be more open and what will it mean for you to extravagantly love God?

Prayer and Worship (20 mins)

Take time to pray for those missing from the table, your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and the strangers you might encounter as you go about your daily life.

Before you leave

Gathering around food brings us together. Have you tried one of these ideas yet? If so, could you try a different one? Next time you meet have a bring and share meal together or hold a group cake bake off? Alternatively have a takeaway or try food tasting i.e., different cheeses, biscuits, chocolate, crisps, veg, fruit? Instead, you could bring a recipe to share or try different drinks and share your recommendations. Just have fun!

Meals Around the Table

Six Bible Studies from Luke's Gospel

Session 3 | **Salvation Invitation Luke 19:1-9, Luke 9:4 & 10:7**

Pre meeting notes:

Small Group meeting: The suggested timings are for a meeting that last 1 ½ hours.

Individual Study: If you belong to a small group but are absent for session one simply to do the study with your group in mind. If you do not belong to a missional community small group, remember you are part of the wider church, so why not do it with your closest Christian friends in mind, imagining them as your small group.

Check In: Who's at the table? (20 mins)

Who is present as you meet and who not with you? Have a quick check in with each other as a whole group or in pairs. Need an ice breaker? In today's story the Sycamore tree Zacchaeus climbed became a significant place in his salvation story, where might you count as a significant place in your salvation story?

Allow 10 minutes for the sharing of testimonies of where you have seen God at work during the last week or two. If you are on your own, why not post a testimony on your group WhatsApp or to a friend.

Bible Study (50 MINS)

Read Luke 19:1-9

Once again Jesus reaches out to an unexpected person, not just a tax collector but a very corrupt one. Unlike the other meals in Luke's gospel there is something unique about this one, don't miss it. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

Now consider this rhetorical question for 30 seconds

- How do I celebrate and encourage people when they come to faith?

Luke 9:4 "Whenever you enter, stay there until you leave that town" Context verses 1-9, Jesus sends out the twelve.

Luke 10:7 "Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves the wage" Context verses 1-24, Jesus sends out the seventy-two.

Questions to consider and share responses:

- Whose table are you sitting around, specifically thinking of those who aren't following Jesus?

- Whose table are you seeing Jesus at? Are any of these people not following Jesus yet?

Having studied these scriptures what is Jesus saying to you?

Prayer and Worship (20 mins)

Take time to pray for those missing from the table, your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and the strangers you might encounter as you go about your daily life.

Before you leave

Gathering around food brings us together have you tried one of these ideas yet? If so, could you try a different one? Next time you meet have a bring and share meal together or hold a group cake bake off? Alternatively have a takeaway or try food tasting i.e., different cheeses, biscuits, chocolate, crisps, veg, fruit? Instead, you could bring a recipe to share or try different drinks and share your recommendations. Just have fun!

Meals Around the Table

Six Bible Studies from Luke's Gospel

Session 4 | **Miraculous Meals Luke 9:10-17, Luke 14:1-4**

Pre meeting notes:

Small Group meeting: The suggested timings are for a meeting that last 1 ½ hours.

Individual Study: If you belong to a small group but are absent for session one simply to do the study with your group in mind. If you do not belong to a missional community small group, remember you are part of the wider church, so why not do it with your closest Christian friends in mind, imagining them as your small group.

Check In: Who's at the table? (20 mins)

Who is present as you meet and who not with you? Have a quick check in with each other as a whole group or pairs. Need an ice breaker? Share the story of your favourite picnic.

Allow 10 minutes for the sharing of testimonies of where you have seen God at work during the last week or two. If you are on your own, why not post a testimony on your group WhatsApp or to a friend.

Bible Study (50 MINS)

Read Luke 9:10-17

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

Now consider this rhetorical question for 30 seconds

- What is my expectation of miracles and healings happening through my hands?

Hold the answer in your mind as you look at the following meal story.

Read Luke 14:1-4

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus (or in this case the Father) at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

A further question for you to ponder and share your response: Next time you're having a meal or a cuppa with someone and they share an ailment or need, will you offer to pray for them?

Prayer and Worship (20 mins)

Take time to pray for those missing from the table, your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and the strangers you might encounter as you go about your daily life.

Before you leave

Gathering around food brings us together have you tried one of these ideas yet? If so, could you try a different one? Next time you meet have a bring and share meal together or hold a group cake bake off? Alternatively have a takeaway or try food tasting i.e., different cheeses, biscuits, chocolate, crisps, veg, fruit? Instead, you could bring a recipe to share or try different drinks and share your recommendations. Just have fun!

Meals Around the Table

Six Bible Studies from Luke's Gospel

Session 5 | **Revelation Luke 24:13-35 & Luke 24:36-49**

Pre meeting notes:

Small Group meeting: The suggested timings are for a meeting that last 1 ½ hours.

Individual Study: If you belong to a small group but are absent for session one simply to do the study with your group in mind. If you do not belong to a missional community small group, remember you are part of the wider church, so why not do it with your closest Christian friends in mind, imagining them as your small group.

Check In: Who's at the table? (20 mins)

Who is present as you meet and who is not with you? Have a quick check in with each other as a whole group or pairs. Need an ice breaker? Either share a comical story of a meal where someone shared an unexpected revelation or alternatively share something about yourself that you think no one knows.

Allow 10 minutes for the sharing of testimonies of where you have seen God at work during the last week or two. If you are on your own, why not post a testimony on your group WhatsApp or to a friend.

Bible Study (50 MINS)

Read Luke 24:13-35

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people. It's worth noting the impact of the different stages and types of revelation.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

Now consider this rhetorical question for 30 seconds

- What is the usual way of the Lord gives me revelation and how open am I to Him giving revelation in a new way?

Hold the answers in your mind as you read on.

Read Luke 24:36-49

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus (or in this case the Father) at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

What is Jesus saying to you from these scriptures? How will you continue to engage with scripture?

Prayer and Worship (20 mins)

Take time to pray for those missing from the table, your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and the strangers you might encounter as you go about your daily life.

Before you leave

Gathering around food brings us together have you tried one of these ideas yet? If so, could you try a different one? Next time you meet have a bring and share meal together or hold a group cake bake off? Alternatively have a takeaway or try food tasting i.e., different cheeses, biscuits, chocolate, crisps, veg, fruit? Instead, you could bring a recipe to share or try different drinks and share your recommendations. Just have fun!

Meals Around the Table

Six Bible Studies from Luke's Gospel

Session 6 | **Hospitality Luke 10:38-72 & Luke 22:7-38**

Pre meeting notes:

Small Group meeting: The suggested timings are for a meeting that last 1 ½ hours.

Individual Study: If you belong to a small group but are absent for session one simply to do the study with your group in mind. If you do not belong to a missional community small group, remember you are part of the wider church, so why not do it with your closest Christian friends in mind, imagining them as your small group.

Check In: Who's at the table? (20 mins)

Who is present as you meet and who not with you? Have a quick check in with each other as a whole group or pairs. Need an ice breaker? Share what good hospitality feels like for you and why.

Allow 10 minutes for the sharing of testimonies of where you have seen God at work during the last week or two. If you are on your own, why not post a testimony on your group WhatsApp or to a friend.

Bible Study (50 MINS)

Read Luke 10:38-72

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

Now consider this rhetorical question for 30 seconds

- What stops me from sitting at Jesus' feet?

Hold the answer in your mind as you read the following scripture.

Read Luke 22:7-38

As you read the story use the following three questions to provoke your curiosity and reflect on the passage together. After each question choose your main take away thought, this will be different for different people.

- Who's at the table?
- Where is Jesus (or in this case the Father) at the table?
- Who is missing from the table?

The Eucharist (Holy Communion) points to the foretaste of the heavenly banquet at the end of time. Who isn't yet following Jesus that you want to be there and what might be your part in helping them find the way?

Prayer and Worship (20 mins)

Take time to pray for those missing from the table, your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and the strangers you might encounter as you go about your daily life.

Before you leave

How might food play a part in your future group meetings or if you have done this study on your own how might eating with others play a greater part in your friendships?