

Around THE TABLE



Normal Campus Sermon Study - 8.30.2026

Leader's Corner

The Table isn't Just for Us - Urgency
with Wisdom (HOPE + HEALING)

Luke 5:27-32

Main Idea: Jesus invites Levi to the Table, and Levi's natural response is to make room for others. The Table of Jesus was never meant to become a closed circle. Invited people invite people. Served people serve people. Sent people go.

One Practice for the Week: Move from good intentions to names and plans. By the end of group, identify: *Who will we INVITE? Who will we SERVE? How will we GO?*

Leader Note: This is a great week to resist making the conversation overly theoretical. Levi had barely begun following Jesus when he opened his home and brought his friends around Jesus. Help your group see that mission doesn't require having all the answers—it begins with recognizing the people God has already placed around us.

Prayer and Praise

Opening Prayer:

"Make Room"

Invite everyone to sit quietly for a moment and picture the people God has already placed in their everyday lives: neighbors, coworkers, friends, teammates, family members.

Then pray together:

*Jesus, thank You for making room for us at Your Table.
Thank You that You moved toward us when we needed You.
Give us Your eyes to see the people around us.
Free us from becoming comfortable with a Table that is only for us.
Show us who to invite, where to serve, and where You are asking us to go.
Make us loving, life-giving people bringing hope and healing in Jesus.
Amen.*

Suggested Worship Songs:

- * "The Jesus Way" — Phil Wickham
- * "Build Your Kingdom Here" — Rend Collective
- * "Available" — Elevation Worship

Prayer Emphasis:

Before beginning the discussion, have everyone quietly pray: *"Jesus, who needs a chair?"* Encourage them not to force an answer. Simply ask the Holy Spirit to bring a person—or people—to mind.

Group Discussion

1. Read Luke 5:27–32 together. What stands out to you about Jesus' interaction with Levi? What seems surprising or unexpected?
2. After Jesus invites Levi to follow Him, Levi throws a banquet and fills the room with people he already knows. What does Levi's immediate response tell us about what encountering Jesus had done in him?
3. The sermon used the phrase, "Invited people invite people." Why do you think invitation was such a natural response for Levi?
4. Jesus describes Himself like a doctor who intentionally goes where sick people are. What does that teach us about the posture Jesus has toward people who are broken, skeptical, far from God, or simply not part of a church community?
5. Think about your normal week—your neighborhood, workplace, school, kids' activities, team, gym, friendships, etc. Where has God already placed you around people who need hope and healing?
6. What keeps us from making room for new people? Comfort? Busyness? Fear of rejection? Our group already feeling full? Not knowing what to say? What tends to get in the way for you?
7. There's an important difference between saying "people are welcome" and actually inviting people. How can a group unintentionally become a closed table even when everyone in it believes they are welcoming?
8. Jesus moved toward brokenness rather than waiting for broken people to find Him. What would it look like for our group to adopt that same posture this fall?
9. Look at these three words: **INVITE • SERVE • GO**
Which one comes most naturally to our group right now? Which one probably needs the most intentionality?
10. If we really believe "there is always room for one more at Jesus' Table," what is one decision we need to make as a group tonight?

Practice

PRACTICE THIS WEEK — INVITE • SERVE • GO

This week, don't finish group without putting some specifics behind these three words.

INVITE — *Who needs a chair?*

Organic invitation is often the stickiest pathway into community because relationship already exists. Give everyone a minute to write down one name. Who is already in my life that I could invite into community?

Then talk as a group: Who could we invite into our group this fall?

This isn't about randomly filling a seat. Who do you already know? Who might benefit from being known, loved, and connected?

GROUP COMMITMENT: Identify specific people your group will intentionally invite.

SERVE — *Who can we serve together?*

Every group should choose to serve at least once together this fall.

Ask: Where is there a need we could meet together?

It could be a neighbor, family, school, community organization, ministry partner, or opportunity from the Serve Playbook. The goal isn't simply to discuss serving tonight.

Choose something. Put it on the calendar. Do it together.

GROUP COMMITMENT: Decide who you will serve and identify your next step toward making it happen.

GO — *Where are we being sent?*

Mission isn't only a trip somewhere else. Jesus sends us back into the places we already live every day.

Ask: Where has God already sent the people sitting around this Table?

Then ask: How could we intentionally bring hope + healing in Jesus there?

GROUP COMMITMENT: Name at least one way your group will GO on mission this fall.

Before You Leave - Have someone record your group's three commitments:

INVITE: _____

SERVE: _____

GO: _____

Then pray specifically over each commitment and the people represented by them.

Further Study

Matt. 9:9–13 - Matthew's account of his own calling. Notice again Jesus' willingness to share the table with people religious insiders avoided.

Reflect: Who am I tempted to believe is unlikely to respond to an invitation from Jesus?

Luke 14:12–24 - Jesus describes a Table that continually makes room and sends servants outward with an invitation.

Reflect: What does God's desire for a full Table teach us about our own posture toward invitation?

Matthew 28:18–20 - Jesus doesn't tell His disciples merely to stay together. He sends them: "Go and make disciples."

Reflect: Where is my everyday mission field right now?

Acts 2:42–47 - The early church lived deeply connected lives while also experiencing continual outward growth: "And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."

Reflect: How can our group pursue deep community without allowing deep community to become inward community?

Hebrews 13:1–2 - Hospitality isn't an optional extra for followers of Jesus. Making room for others is part of the Christian life.

Final Question for the Week: Jesus made room at His Table for me. Where is He asking me to make room for someone else?