

Around THE TABLE



Sermon Study - 8.16.2026

Leader's Corner

The Invitation to the Table -
Formation First (LOVE)

Matthew 22:36–39
Matthew 28:18–20

Main Idea: Jesus invites us to His table not simply to attend, but to be formed by Him, become like Him, and join Him in making room for others.

Key Scriptures: Matthew 22:36–39 | Matthew 28:18–20

Supporting Scriptures: Luke 5:27–32; John 13:1–17; Luke 22:14–20

Big Movement: Pull up a chair. Be formed. Join the family. Make room for someone else.

Leader Note: There is a lot of Eastview language in this sermon: Vision, Attitudes, and Posture. You don't need to review all of it. Help your group get underneath the language to the deeper question: If this is who Jesus is calling us to become, what would it actually look like for us to live this way?

Prayer and Praise

Opening Prayer:

*Jesus, thank You for inviting us to Your table.
Thank You that there is room for us because of Your grace.
Form us into people who love You deeply,
love people generously,
and bring Your hope and healing wherever You send us.
Show us where You are inviting us to pull up a chair,
where You are asking us to change,
and who You may be asking us to make room for.
Amen.*

Songs to Consider:

- * Come to the Table — Sidewalk Prophets
- * Build My Life — Pat Barrett
- * The Jesus Way — Phil Wickham
- * Goodness of God — Bethel Music

Group Discussion

1. Start with the table. Think about a table from your life—your childhood kitchen, grandparents' house, holidays, friends, somewhere else. What table comes to mind, and what made it meaningful?

2. Read Luke 5:27–32. Jesus regularly shared tables with people others avoided or overlooked. What do you notice about the kinds of people Jesus made room for? What does that tell us about Him?

3. The sermon said: “The table is one of the places a family becomes a family—and where guests can start to feel like family.”

Where have you experienced that kind of belonging—whether around an actual table, in a group, at church, or somewhere else? What made you feel like you belonged rather than simply attended?

4. Read Matthew 22:36–39 and Matthew 28:18–20. The sermon summarized Jesus' calling as: Love God. Love People. Make Disciples. Of those three, which comes most naturally to you right now? Which one needs more attention?

5. Our vision is to become Loving, Life-Giving People Bringing Hope + Healing in Jesus. Rather than thinking about Eastview as a whole, make it personal: What would someone experience from you if you were increasingly becoming a loving, life-giving person? Where might that show up this week—home, work, school, neighborhood, friendships?

6. The eight Attitudes give us practical ways to move toward that vision: Choose the Better • Watch the Wind • Pass the Salt • Rip the Roof • Grab a Towel • Empty the Jar • Say Thank You • Send Out Workers

Which one feels particularly relevant to what Jesus is doing in your life right now? Why?

7. Read John 13:12–17. Jesus didn't merely sit at the table—He got up from it, grabbed a towel, and served. What does this teach us about our place at Jesus' table? How does following Jesus move us from consuming to contributing?

8. The sermon gave us three questions for how we travel together:

- * Formation First: Is this helping me be with Jesus and become like Jesus?
- * People Always: Am I putting people ahead of my preferences?
- * Urgency Guided by Wisdom: Am I actually moving when Jesus asks me to move?

Which question do you most need to ask yourself in this season?

9. The invitation at the end wasn't simply “Come to Eastview.” It was “Pull up a chair.” What's the difference between attending church and actually pulling up a chair and becoming part of what Jesus is doing? Where do you sense Jesus inviting you to move from watching → participating?

10. Picture one more chair beside you at the table. Whose name could be on that chair? Who around you might need friendship, community, encouragement, hope, or simply an invitation? And what is one simple thing you could do this week to make room for them?

Practice

Around the Table:

Put an empty chair somewhere visible to the group. Take a minute of silence and ask:

“Jesus, who are You inviting me to make room for?”

Then have everyone write down one name. The goal isn’t necessarily to invite them to church this week. It could be:

- * Share a meal.
- * Send a text.
- * Invite them into something you’re already doing.
- * Ask how they’re really doing.
- * Pray for them.
- * Invite them to your group.
- * Simply make time.

Don’t just notice the empty chair. Make room.

Individual Practice:

Choose one Attitude to intentionally practice this week. At the beginning of each day, pray:

“Jesus, form me into a loving, life-giving person today. Show me where You’re working and how I can join You.”

Further Study

Jesus at the Table:

- * Luke 5:27–32 — Jesus eats with Levi and his friends
- * Luke 7:36–50 — Grace and forgiveness around a Pharisee’s table
- * Luke 19:1–10 — Jesus makes room for Zacchaeus
- * Luke 22:14–20 — Jesus shares the Last Supper
- * Luke 24:28–35 — Jesus is recognized in the breaking of bread

Becoming the People of Jesus:

- * John 13:34–35 — Known by our love
- * Romans 12:9–18 — What genuine love looks like
- * Galatians 5:22–25 — A life formed by the Spirit
- * Colossians 3:12–17 — The character of a Jesus-shaped community

Making Room for Others:

- * Romans 15:7 — Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you
- * Hebrews 13:1–2 — Practice hospitality
- * Luke 14:12–24 — Make room at the table
- * Matthew 9:35–38 — Ask the Lord to send workers

Closing Thought:

Jesus has made room for us at His table. Now He is forming us into the kind of people who make room for others.

Pull up a chair—and leave room for one more.