



September 15, 2024

Eat

Luke 14:12-14

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

1 Peter 4:8-11

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹ Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

“When we invite friends for a meal, we do much more than offer them food for their bodies. We offer friendship, fellowship, good conversation, intimacy and closeness. When we say, ‘Help yourself...take some more...don’t be shy...have another glass’...we offer our guests not only our food and drink but also ourselves. A spiritual bond grows and we become food and drink for one another.” — **Henri Nouwen**

Excuse #1: “I don’t like to have people in my home.”

It’s not about where you’re eating or even what you’re eating it. It’s about who you’re eating with.

Excuse #2: “I wouldn’t know what to say.”

Instead of worrying about what you will say, think about what you can learn about the other person, by listening.

History — Where did you grow up? How did you meet your spouse?

Heart — What’s your favorite restaurant, sports team, vacation destination?

Hobby — What do you like to do in your free time?

Hurt — What struggles have you had to overcome in life?

Magic Words — “Tell me more about that...”

Excuse #3: “I just don’t have the time.”

	EAT	S	M	T	W	R	F	S
breakfast								
lunch								
dinner								
coffee								

“Missional hospitality is a tremendous opportunity to extend the kingdom of God. (If every Christian family invited someone into their home each week for a meal...) We could literally eat our way into the kingdom of God. — **Alan Hirsch**

B.L.E.S.S. Discussion Questions:

OPEN: If you could eat anywhere for dinner, where would you go? What is your most memorable meal ever?

DIG: Have you ever experienced sharing a meal with someone, and suddenly that acquaintance became a friend? What is it about sharing a meal that seems to deepen a friendship so quickly?

Read Matthew 9:9-13. Why do you think Jesus chose to eat with Matthew? How do you think Matthew felt about sharing a meal with Jesus?

What point was Jesus making when He said that He “came eating and drinking...”(Luke 7:34 NIV)?
What does this say about how He wanted to be known?

Why is eating with someone such an effective way to bless them?

Which of the excuses for not sharing a meal with someone do you relate to most?

REFLECT: Who will you share a meal, dessert, or coffee with this week?
