



**Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide:  
Simply Jesus: Week 3, March 22, 2020**

Recap:

- Matthew, the tax collector, is called to follow Jesus, and he does. Then Jesus ends up at Matthew's house having dinner where Jesus is criticized for eating with tax collectors and "sinners."
- God has always used the metaphor of a dining room table to talk about inviting others to experience his love and mercy. The dining room table is a special place, made even more special by the people who sit at it.
- During the Last Supper, Jesus showed his disciples the power of the table and then sent them out into the world. He showed them at the table they could remember who he was and what he had come to do for the world. Jesus wanted them to remember that they were a part of the community of followers who shared his story of forgiveness.
- For so many of us, our dining room tables have been quick service. We quickly grab some food to get back to our TV, our home office, or out the door to the myriad of activities we've got going on. What if you saw dinner as an opportunity to reflect on the grace, mercy, and goodness of Jesus? What if the table became a sacred space where you invited others to experience Jesus together?

Discuss:

1. What eating routines do you and/or your family practice?
2. READ MATTHEW 9:9-13
3. What response do you think Jesus's disciples might have had to the Pharisees question?
4. How is what Jesus said a rebuke to the Pharisees?
5. READ PSALM 23:1-6
6. What do you think the phrase "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies" entails?
7. READ MATTHEW 26:26-29
8. Why do you think Jesus would ask his followers to remember him at the dinner table?
9. What are some new routines or family practices that you could start doing to make your dinner table a place of invitation and grace? What does that look like now with your family? What does that look like in the future when this crisis is over?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Readings about Eating

- Deuteronomy 12:7
- Hebrews 10:24-25