

# the table



**Week 2 | The Table | February 28**

**Key Focus:** Party with sinners.

**Opening Up:**

- Tell a story about your first dance party? If you have never been to a dance, explain.
- Do you dance at weddings? What makes dancing fun or frightening?
- Which would you fear more: dancing in front of friends or giving a speech in front of professionals?

**Reference: Luke 7:36-50**

**Discuss:**

1. Based upon what you know, what do you think a dinner party with Jesus would be like?
2. What would be different about your table if you partied like Jesus? Who is someone you need to invite to dinner?
3. How has forgiveness changed your life? How has un-forgiveness changed your life?
4. It has been said that with Jesus it's belong, believe, and behave. And with religion it is behave, belong, and believe. How have you seen this to be true? Describe the different experiences. How does table ministry contribute to belonging?
5. In Luke 7:37 and 38, Jesus looks past the scandalous behavior of the prostitute who broke up the dinner party and sees her loving intention. In 7:34 and 35 we see that Jesus was friends with misbehaving people. What does this teach you about the ministry of Jesus? How does this idea affect your table ministry in your life?
6. Read the following quote: "The grace of God turns out to be uncomfortable and embarrassing. Jesus is socially disruptive; his radical grace disrupts social situations. And we don't like church to be disrupted. We regard marginalized people in the church as 'a problem' to be 'handled.'" Have you witnessed what Chester says in the quote? How is it true? What should be done about it? Why do you find it difficult to address this idea?
7. In Luke 7:44 Jesus asks Simon, "Do you see her?" Why is it hard to look past behavior to see the person?
8. In Luke 7:41-43 we see a connection between forgiveness and love. How does receiving forgiveness empower love? Why do self-righteous people make terrible lovers?
9. Simon loved Jesus poorly. He loved the woman poorly. Simon was self-righteous. What can you do to ensure you are less like Simon and more like the woman?
10. Pray about one missional meal that you might have this week.