



Week 4 | The Neighboring Church | February 19

Key Focus: In the last month, who has shared a meal at your dinner table? Does your dinner table look like the dinner table of Jesus?

Opening Up:

- What is your favorite restaurant to eat at with friends?
- Would you rather have a great catered meal at home or go out with friends? Explain?
- Would you rather host a party or attend a party? Explain.
- What makes for a great host at a party?
- Who has the gift of hospitality in your life? How do they make you feel welcomed?

Reference: Matthew 9:9-13

Discuss:

1. If a church was going to make you feel welcomed, what would the church be doing?
2. Any application of the law of God that does not produce the love of God has failed. Can you think of a way the church has tried to be obedient to God and failed to love in the process?
3. In Matthew 9:9 Jesus “saw” Matthew. What does it feel like to be seen?
4. Have ever been to a church or attended a party and felt like no one noticed you? What does that feel like?
5. If you were hosting Jesus for dinner this Friday, what would that party look like? How would you design a party that Jesus would like to attend?
6. In Matthew 10:11-12 Jesus sends out his missionaries in need of hospitality. How is going to someone's party a Jesus thing to do?
7. In Matthew 10 the missionaries were looking for people of peace. A person open to giving and receiving hospitality. Who is a person of peace in your neighborhood?
8. How does eating a meal with someone change the dynamic of a relationship? How is the relationship different before and after the meal?
9. Jesus says, “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’” (Matthew 9:13) How would you go about learning this? How does showing mercy to someone take you out of the theory of a bible study and into the practice of the Christian faith?
10. Who do you need to invite over to dinner?
11. Pray.