Come to the Table Community Group Questions

Week 1 - “Around the Table”

Tables are places where many different people can come together and make connections. It’s where relationships can start, grow, and even sometimes where they end. Life at the table can seem predictable and routine, or it can be surprising and unusual.

A table is a reminder that what really matters in life is relationships. We are hardwired for emotional connection to other people. We want to be known. We crave being loved. . . . We crave intimacy.

“Intimacy is a scary concept for a lot of people.” And whether we call it intimacy or getting closer or making deeper connections, many people will still have some fears about knowing and being known by others.

**What are some of those fears people have about getting close?**

**• What fears do you have?**

**• Where do these fears come from?**

Getting in each other’s physical space can be uncomfortable and awkward.

Getting in each other’s emotional and spiritual space can be even messier!

But getting in each other’s lives and sharing experiences can be beautiful, funny, and life-changing.

Intimacy is sharing experiences—big ones, little ones, everyday ones. It’s **being present** with others in those experiences and **allowing time** for this to happen.

**Share different experiences or opportunities that created intimacy between your close friends, family, or community.**

**What does it mean to be “fully present” vs “not present” in relationships?**

In Mark 8:27-38 we see Jesus having heart-to-heart talks with his disciples about his identity and theirs. What can we learn from those conversations? What does it mean to be close to Jesus? What does it take to follow him?

In Mark 14:1-42 we see four moving and slightly-awkward portrayals of people demonstrating intimacy with Jesus: the woman with the perfume, Jesus at the Last Supper, Peter with Jesus, and Jesus and his disciples at Gethsemane. What was moving or emotional about these scenes? What was awkward? 10. Contrast the efforts of the woman with the perfume with those of the disciples in the garden. How do their actions demonstrate intimacy and closeness?

**Some people say that intimacy should be easy. But that is a myth. Though you may have an easy time getting close to some people, that isn’t going to be true for everyone, and maintaining any relationship takes time and work. What’s the state of your relationships right now?**

**What are some of the challenges of creating intimacy?**

Conclude your discussion with a prayer asking God for intimacy and to remove the barriers that get in the way of our intimacy with God and our intimacy with others.