

True Love Eats...

Being Hospitable Like Jesus

Luke 19.1-10; Matt. 9.9-13

Focus: on urging us to practice hospitality towards our neighbors

RESOURCES:

Here are some encouraging short articles on hospitality to share with your group:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/hospitality-and-the-great-commission>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/hospitality-sacrifice-and-delight-in-god>

this one is an audio interview with Rosaria Champagne Butterfield:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/hospitality-on-mission>

and here is a good article by Tim Chester on the significance of shared meals in Luke:

<http://www.theologynetwork.org/theology-of-everything/starting-out/making-a-meal-of-it.htm>

and here is a short but helpful article by Tony Merida:

<http://factsandtrends.net/2014/04/16/table-talk-practicing-biblical-hospitality/#.VICiyoSlfdQ>

Discussion:

- Read Luke 19.1-10 and Matt. 9.9-13. What do these stories have in common? What do they teach us about Jesus that we should emulate?
- Why was Jesus' practice of eating with sinners so troubling to the religious leaders? What part of their concern was legitimate? How would you counsel someone who is concerned about the influence of bad company to work through that? How do you reconcile Jesus' actions with Ps. 1:1?
- Do you think that opening your home and sharing a meal with someone has significance in our day? Why is that? What makes doing that challenging at points?
- Obviously, having a meal only facilitates the kind of spiritual conversation we hope to have with our neighbors. Share ideas about how to bring up spiritual issues in a way that encourages genuine conversation.
- How can you support and encourage hospitality with neighbors to become part of the culture of your small group? How can your small group do this together?
- Spend your prayer time sharing possible action steps and names of friends who are "outsiders" you are hoping to share a meal with in the next month.

2016 Annual Priority:

To establish a greater being shaped by the three mission statement's goal of ministering worshiper of the church, and love of neighbor.



devotion to believing and great loves embedded in our becoming a mature and God; love for God, love for