

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: The Table Is the Ministry

Devotional

Think about the last meal you shared with someone you care about. Something happens around a table that is hard to explain. Walls come down. Conversations go deeper. People feel seen.

Jesus understood this better than anyone. He did not treat meals as a break from His work. Eating with people was His work. He sat with tax collectors, fishermen, and outcasts. He broke bread with the people that polite society had written off. And in doing so, He communicated something powerful: you matter, and God is not far from you.

This was not accidental. Jesus was intentional about the table. Some of the most transformative moments in His ministry did not happen in the synagogue. They happened over a shared meal.

That same invitation is available to us today. Every time we sit down with another person and share food, we have an opportunity to reflect the heart of Jesus. We do not need a sermon prepared or a theological argument ready. We just need to show up and make room.

You already eat every day. The question is whether any of those meals could become a moment of ministry for someone around you.

Bible Verse

"After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at His tax booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed Him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at His house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?' Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.'" - Luke 5:27-32

Reflection Question

When you think about the people in your life who feel overlooked or disconnected, what would it mean to them if you simply invited them to share a meal with you?

Quote

"For Jesus, meals were not an interruption to ministry meals, they were ministry."

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to the people around me who need to feel seen and welcomed. Help me to see the table not as an ordinary moment, but as an opportunity to reflect Your love. Amen.

Day 2: Grace Has a Seat at the Table

Devotional

There is a temptation to think that the table is a reward. That we invite people over once they have their lives together, once things are less messy, once they seem more like us. But that is not how Jesus operated.

When Jesus sat down with sinners and tax collectors, the religious leaders were offended. They saw it as compromise. But Jesus saw it as the whole point. He was not endorsing every decision those people had made. He was simply showing up and saying, the mercy of God is close enough to sit right beside you.

That is a radical kind of grace. And it is the grace that changed lives.

Zacchaeus did not clean up his act before Jesus came to dinner. Jesus invited Himself over first, and the transformation followed. The table was not the finish line. It was the starting line.

This matters for how we think about hospitality. We do not wait until people are ready. We invite them in as they are, trusting that God is already at work. Our job is not to fix anyone. Our job is to make room and let the Holy Spirit do what only He can do.

Grace does not wait for perfect conditions. Neither should we.

Bible Verse

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short He could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to Him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.' But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to Him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'" - Luke 19:1-10

Reflection Question

Is there someone in your life you have been waiting to invite closer until things feel more comfortable or convenient? What might God be asking you to do instead?

Quote

"The table is not a reward. It is not something reserved for those who have already got cleaned up, those who are following all of the right rules and laws. What Jesus is saying is that the table is the place where grace begins. It's the place where the healing work of God begins to take place."

Prayer

Father, thank You for welcoming me before I had anything to offer. Give me the courage to extend that same grace to others, trusting You to do the work only You can do. Amen.

Day 3: You Do Not Have to Have All the Right Words

Devotional

Many of us hold back from reaching out to people because we feel unqualified. We worry we will say the wrong thing, or that we will not know how to steer the conversation toward something meaningful. So we do nothing.

But look at what Jesus actually did with Zacchaeus. He did not sit down and immediately address every wrong thing in his life. He did not arrive with a list of corrections. He simply came to eat. He built a relationship. And that time in the presence of Jesus was enough to move Zacchaeus to repentance, generosity, and restitution, all on His own.

This is deeply encouraging. We do not have to engineer the perfect spiritual conversation. We do not have to have a sermon ready. We just have to be willing to show up and share a meal. If we can get people close enough to Jesus through genuine relationship and community, the Holy Spirit will take it from there.

You are not responsible for changing anyone. That is God's job. Your job is simply to open the door, pull up a chair, and make someone feel welcome. The rest belongs to Him.

That is a pressure worth releasing. And it is an invitation worth accepting.

Bible Verse

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short He could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to Him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.' But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to Him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'" - Luke 19:1-10

Reflection Question

What fear or insecurity has kept you from reaching out to someone who might need connection? How might releasing that pressure change the way you approach relationships?

Quote

"I really, really believe that if we can just get people close enough to Jesus that the Holy Spirit will do what only it can do, and it'll correct these things and it'll work out these issues that may need to be addressed."

Prayer

Holy Spirit, I trust You to do what only You can do. Help me to stop waiting until I feel ready and to simply be willing to show up for the people around me. Amen.

Day 4: Welcomed First, Now We Welcome Others

Devotional

It is easy to think of hospitality as something generous people do. A personality trait. A spiritual gift that some have and others do not. But Christian hospitality is rooted in something much deeper than personality. It is rooted in what God has already done for us.

We were the outsiders. We were the ones with the messy lives and the complicated histories. And Christ welcomed us anyway. Not with suspicion. Not with conditions. With sacrificial love.

That changes everything about why we open our homes and share our tables. We are not doing it to prove how generous or spiritual we are. We are doing it because we have been on the receiving end of that same welcome. We know what it feels like to be invited in when we had nothing to offer.

When we share a meal with someone who is lonely, overlooked, or far from God, we are not doing them a favor. We are simply passing on what we have already received.

This is the heartbeat of the Church. We gather together, we encourage one another, and we carry that same Spirit of welcome outward into the world around us. Hospitality is not a program. It is a response to grace.

You have been welcomed. Now go and do the same.

Bible Verse

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:24-25

Reflection Question

How does remembering that you were once the outsider whom Christ welcomed change the way you think about extending hospitality to others?

Quote

"See, the truth of the matter is we were the hungry ones. We were the outsiders. We were the sinners in need of mercy. And Christ welcomed us. He didn't welcome us with suspicion. He didn't offer us with scarcity. No, he welcomed us with sacrificial love."

Prayer

Lord, thank You for welcoming me with grace I did not earn. Let that truth move me to open my life and my table to others the way You opened Yours to me. Amen.

Day 5: One Meal. One Step. One Open Door.

Devotional

Here is the beautiful, practical truth about everything we have explored this week. You already eat. Every single day, multiple times a day, you sit down for a meal. The opportunity is already built into your life. The only question is whether you are willing to share it.

You do not need a spotless house. You do not need to be a great cook. You do not need to have the perfect words ready. You just need to be willing to pull up an extra chair and invite someone in.

Think about the people around you. A neighbor you wave to but have never really talked with. A coworker who always eats lunch alone. Someone at church who is newer and still finding their footing. Someone who is going through a hard season and just needs to know they are not invisible.

One meal. That is the challenge. Out of the fourteen to twenty-one meals you will eat this week, set aside just one to share with someone who needs connection.

Strangers become neighbors. Neighbors become friends. Friends become family. And sometimes, a simple meal becomes the beginning of a story of grace that neither of you could have planned.

The table is waiting. Who will you invite?

Bible Verse

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:24-25

Reflection Question

Who is one specific person in your life right now that you could invite to share a meal with you this week, and what is one small step you can take today to make that happen?

Quote

"Strangers become neighbors, neighbors become friends, friends become family."

Prayer

Father, give me eyes to see the people around me who need to be welcomed. Give me the courage to take one simple step this week and open my table to someone who needs to know they belong. Amen.