

The Jesus Way

The Jesus Way: The Way of the Table

March 28th & 29th

Speaker: Pastor Heather Zempel

Scripture: Matthew 9:10-13, 14:13-21, 26:26-28; Luke 24:30-31; John 21:9-13

Series Overview

Our church is coming together this Lent to practice the Jesus way. Each week, we'll be learning a new element of the way of Jesus together during weekend services, and we'll set aside time, both collectively and as individuals, to respond to and dive deeper into who Jesus is and who we are in Him. Sign up at ncc.re/TheWay to receive a devotional guide each Monday through Saturday with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices centered around the Jesus way.

Series Discussion Question

What struck you about this week's way of Jesus?
What does it look like to put that into practice?

Message Overview

The table is one of the most ubiquitous yet overlooked settings in the Scripture. Throughout the Old Testament, the table is where people encountered the power, provision, promise, and presence of God. In the New Testament, the table is where the powerful were confronted, the oppressed were uplifted, the outcasts were invited, the self-righteous were ridiculed, and the seekers were given a glimpse of the kingdom of God. He encouraged his followers to remember him when they came to the table together in a ritual that has been practiced by the church for 2,000 years. Whether we call it Communion, The Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist, it is the place where we ground ourselves in our common faith and are united in Jesus.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

What is your most memorable memory of a shared meal? Who was it? What was the occasion? What was the most significant part of the experience for you?

Pastor Heather explores five table moments with Jesus:

- At dinner at Matthew's, Jesus showed the way of **inclusion** (Matthew 9:10-13)
- In the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus showed the way of **power and provision** (Matthew 14:13-21)
- On the road to Emmaus, Jesus showed the way of **presence** (Luke 24:30-31)
- With Peter fishing after the resurrection, Jesus showed the way of **forgiveness** (John 21:9-13)
- At the Passover meal, Jesus showed the way of **tension, lament, celebration, confessing, and commissioning** (Matthew 26:26-28)

As followers of Jesus, how do we turn our tables into places of belonging where people can experience the family of God? What are some ways you can open up your table into a place of belonging during this social distancing period?

Pastor Mark often encourages us to be generous with our time, treasure, and talents. Pastor Heather points out the pattern of blessing and giving thanks through Communion. How can you flip the blessing in this season? For what, can you give thanks?

How are you intentionally seeking community with Jesus and others? What has been working and what has been challenging in this season?

Imagine you were sitting at the table with Jesus. What would you ask him? What stories would you want to hear him tell?

Who would it be hard to invite to your table? What would it take for you to invite that person to the table?

Practical Application

- Read and reflect on these five table moments with Jesus. What other table moments come to mind from Scripture?
- Consider sharing communion with your family or friends over video this week. **Want some guidance on how to do this?** Reach out to groups@theaterchurch.com for a guide.

Have kids?

Check out [this parent resource](#) on how to talk with your children about communion.

- How well would you say you are staying connected during this season? Would you like to talk to an NCC Leader? Could you benefit from joining an online group? Go to ncc.re/connect.
- Continue to engage with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices throughout the week by subscribing to The Jesus Way: A Daily Practice at ncc.re/TheWay.