

# York St Small Groups

## Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Christ at the Table**  
**Matthew 22:34-40**



**These studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday sermon and to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing.**



**YORK STREET**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**Webpage: [yorkst.com.au](http://yorkst.com.au)**

## **GETTING STARTED**

**Q1.** If your table could talk, what kinds of stories could it tell of what has happened around it?

**Q2.** Do you view your home more as a castle to hide away in, or as an outpost for the Kingdom of God?

**Q3.** Does the prospect of reimagining your table for the purposes of God make your mind race with anxiety, or with dreams and ideas? If it's anxiety, why might that be?

## **EATING LIKE JESUS ATE**

**Look through the book of Luke. Choose one or two accounts of Jesus eating with others, and read them together.**

**Q4.** What are you most drawn to in these passages?

**Q5.** Does your table look like Jesus' table? If not, who's missing at your table?

**Q6.** Are you willing to enlarge the boundaries of your heart to include those that Jesus made room for? Is there anything that would be difficult about that for you?


*Putting it into practice:* What would be one brave step of surrender for you in this area? Share this with someone who will encourage you and lovingly keep you accountable.

## **YOUR "NEIGHBOUR NEIGHBOUR" (the literal ones next door)**

**Read Matthew 22:34-40**

**Q7.** How do you feel about viewing your neighbourhood as one of your primary callings from Jesus to love well?

**Q8.** The following for you to complete, is an exercise from [artofneighboring.com](http://artofneighboring.com)

a.  b.  c.	a.  b.  c.	a.  b.  c.
a.  b.  c.		a.  b.  c.
a.  b.  c.	a.  b.  c.	a.  b.  c.

The centre square is your home. The eight squares around it are your eight closest neighbours. Do the following for each neighbour:

- On line A, fill in their name. Ideally first and last, but just put down what you know. If you don't know their name yet, just put down question mark, or leave it blank. Do the same for the next two lines.
- On line B, fill in any facts you know that you couldn't get from waving across the street: where they work, where they are from, how long they've lived there, what they do for fun, etc.
- On line C, see if you can fill in any in-depth information: their dreams for the future, relationship status, their faith (or lack of it), experience with God or church, their childhood story, any pain, etc.

As a general rule, only 10% of people can fill in line A, only 3% can fill in line B, and less than 1% can fill in line C. The point here isn't guilt and shame; it's simply to plot out just how well you know (or don't know) your neighbours, to get you started on the journey to loving them.

If you want to take this exercise even further, head to [artofneighboring.com](http://artofneighboring.com) for more info or resources.

*Putting it into practice:* Brainstorm some ways (either by yourself via listening prayer, or over food and drinks with your small group or family), to love your neighbours well in this season.

### **EATING WITH OTHER APPRENTICES OF JESUS, AS FAMILY**

**Read these passages...**

**Romans 12:13 | Hebrews 13:2 | 1 Peter 4:8-9 | 1 Timothy 3:1-2 | Titus 1:8**

**Q9.** What do these verses tell us about the early church, and how we are invited to live as followers of Jesus today?

**Q10.** Do you regularly share a meal with other followers of Jesus? Why or why not?

**Q11.** What benefits can you see in making a habit out of eating and drinking with the family of God?

*Putting it into practice:* Commit to meeting another follower of Jesus for a meal as soon as you are able. BUT don't just look for someone who is like you or at your life stage. Mix it up! Then, when you meet, welcome the Holy Spirit into the space and into your conversation. Pay attention to the movements of your heart as you seek to spur one another on.

### **THINK AND PRAY**

If the Holy Spirit is stirring something within you about reimagining your table, spend some time writing it down, or share it with your group or family. Pray for each other and be curious together regarding how God could use your table in this season when you offer it to him.