



## BREAKING THE ICE

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How many times a week do you sit at the table with others to share a meal?

What is your favorite meal to share with others?

Last week Pastor Kevin talked about serving in your ministry. Where are you serving right now? Who are you serving?

## MAIN CONTENT

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This week Pastor Kevin started a new series called, “The Table” where we talked about how we can show hospitality to others.

1. When you think about hospitality, who comes to mind as having a gift of hospitality?

When you show hospitality you are inviting, accepting and loving others. Jesus spent most of His time at the table with others. Inviting them to eat with Him where He could share His love with them.

Jesus’ first miracle was turning water into wine. It was a gift of hospitality to the bride and groom of the wedding He attended. Jesus was known for sitting around others at tables showing hospitality to them.

2. Talk about a time where you were sitting at a table with others and you felt hospitality.

Over the years we spend less time at the table. Dinner used to last 90 minutes around the table. Now the average is 12 minutes. Because we spend less time over meals we don’t have the opportunity to spend time with others and get to know them. But when we use hospitality to invite others to our table and get to know them, it feels like a heaven comes to earth moment.

3. How often do you ask others to join you at your table? What can keep you from opening your home for others?

Jesus sat at a lot of tables and shared a lot of meals with people. There are two meals Pastor Kevin talked about this week. The first meal Pastor Kevin talked about was with Levi, the tax collector.

## **Read Luke 5: 27-31**

In this passage we see where Jesus does not discriminate against the tax collectors but invites them to intimacy with Him.

4. Who would you say are the “tax collectors” in your life? Would you ever invite them to your house for a meal? How can you show hospitality to “tax collectors”?

The second meal Pastor Kevin talked about was found in Luke 7.

## **Read Luke 7: 36-50**

The pharisee (Simon) that invited Jesus to a meal was not using any of gifts of hospitality. Instead, Simon was there to judge Jesus through his own self-righteousness.

But Jesus showed hospitality and love towards everyone at the meal, including the prostitute that was there to see Him. In Jesus lifetime, the culture would look down on others who are not like them, similar to our culture today. But as followers of Jesus, we are not to be like the common culture.

The longer we follow Jesus the more we show hospitality like Jesus did. In order to show hospitality we have to remember that Jesus loves sinners and we are sinners too.

5. How do you show love to those who you deem as sinful and not like you? Do you find it difficult or easy?

Another way we can show hospitality to others is to ask Jesus to help you see people like He does. Jesus knew everyone at the meal he attended had their own sin issues. He came to die for every single one of them.

6. How can you make a point to show hospitality and love to people who aren't like you? How can you open your table to them?

We can't serve people we can't see. God helps us see those who are hard to love and hard to see. His Spirit in us gives us life to love others well.

The last way we can show hospitality to others is to take what you have and use it for others. This could be your time, home, finances, and more. Opening up our tables to share a meal and have conversation with someone is showing hospitality, love and accepting them. It's a way for them to see what Jesus is like.

7. How can you use your time, home and or finances to show hospitality to others?

## CLOSING PRAYER

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God, thank you for showing us what hospitality looks like through Jesus. His loving, inviting and accepting nature is what we aspire to be like. Will you show us where we can show hospitality in our lives? Will you help us show hospitality through the tables we sit around, with our time, finances and the way we love others. In Jesus name, Amen.

## ACTION STEP

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+ Pray and ask God where you can show hospitality by participating in Do Good This Christmas. For more information go to: <https://crosspoint.tv/dogoodthischristmas/>

+ Practice hospitality this week by inviting someone to the table and sharing a meal with them. Get to know them and love them like Jesus does.