



## BREAKING THE ICE

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Did you find an opportunity to invite someone to your table this last week? If so, please tell the group about it.

What's the best meal you have ever had? What made it so special?

## MAIN CONTENT

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This week we heard from Pastor James Lowe from Bethel World Outreach about who we invite to the table and why we should invite them.

Pastor James talked about how unresolved conflict can be resolved when we convene with others around the table.

1. Describe a time where you have seen conflict resolve after sitting with someone at the table and discussing.

When we see someone in need or something that's not right we can choose how we respond. We can be a first responder or we can avoid it. Some people refer to these situations as fight vs flight. When we have a response to avoid a situation (flight) that can be an indication of fear.

2. How do you address hard conversations or people you may not agree with? Do you avoid it or do you have the tough conversations?

This week our message came from the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19.

### **Read Luke 19: 1-10**

Zacchaeus was a broken man. He was a tax collector who was known for his cheating, stealing and being a liar. Jesus knew this about Zacchaeus but He didn't care. Jesus could choose to be kind to Zacchaeus and be shunned by everyone else for talking to him or he could choose to ignore Zacchaeus and walk away from him.

Not only did Jesus choose to fight for Zacchaeus but He did so joyfully.

3. Describe a time where you had to fight for your faith despite what others would think.

When Zacchaeus was looking for Jesus, he had to climb the tree because he couldn't see. Others were in the way. The crowd was a problem for Zacchaeus. But Jesus saw Zacchaeus and made His way to Zacchaeus house.

If we want to change the dynamic of the world around us we need to practice seeing broken people.

4. How often do you take the time to see broken people around you? How do you engage the brokenness of those around you?

Jesus saw Zacchaeus and called out to Him. Then, Jesus joyfully went to Zacchaeus' home and spent time with him. In that moment, we don't see Jesus preach to him, He shared a meal and spent time with him. He showed Zacchaeus respect and love despite the kind of life Zacchaeus had been living. He spoke life into a broken person.

5. Describe a time where Jesus called out to you.

Jesus chose to respond to Zacchaeus and not run away from his brokenness. He spent time with Zacchaeus and showed him love. Through that love we see Zacchaeus change.

Jesus responded in love towards a broken Zacchaeus, He wants us to do the same with the people who are broken in our lives. Those who are broken spiritually, emotionally and maybe even physically. When we can choose to love like Christ and invite others to our table we can be a part of something greater than a good conversation. People can see and experience Jesus when we choose to be a first responder.

6. Who is God asking you to be a first responder to in your life?

God wants us to be aware of those who are spiritually hurting in life. We can be a first responder to them and show them who Jesus is. We just need to invite them into our lives to do so.

## CLOSING PRAYER

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God, some of us have have been like Zacchaeus and are broken and need to know how to find you. Others of us need to look for those who are broken and reach out to them. Will you please open our hearts to the brokenness around us and show us where we need to reach out to others. Help us hear you speak to us. Help us draw near to you and show others your love.

## ACTION STEP

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+ Pray and ask God where you need to open your eyes to the broken people around you. Ask for him to give you courage to reach out to them and help them see Jesus.

+ Reach out to someone you've been meaning to get coffee or lunch with. Share a meal with them this week.