



Capturing the Image of Table



WHAT HAPPENS AT A TABLE?

Make Space

We must make space in our hearts, minds, homes, gardens, pantries, and calendars for fellowship to happen.

Prepare

We cook, we clean, we organize, we follow up, we put energy into being ready.

Gather

We, as a community, are intentional in coming together.

Share

We share the best of who we are and what we have in the present moment.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A TABLE?

Receive

We choose to welcome the gifts we receive AND the spirit in which they are received.

Reflect

We acknowledge the moment – we offer gratitude for good food, and good company, and God’s presence. And we seek to gather meaning from it.

Reset

We clean up. And we put things back in place. And we scatter home. Buoyed by fellowship, we give thought to what’s next.

Rest

We give ourselves permission to rest: in friendship; in the fulfilment of being present; in the grace of our enough-ness in God.

REFLECTIONS

Think about the tables you've occupied this week. What were your table verbs?

What do you think is the most important thing that happens at a table?

What do you think is the least important thing that happens at a table?

NOTES

- Slide One:
 - During this season of Lent, we will journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem, and the dark Friday of a cross, and eventually the hope of a Sunday. But we will also journey towards a table -- some call it the last supper, but we choose to remember it as the first communion. It's the hope of a table that steels us for Friday and awakens us to Sunday. Each Wednesday in Lent, we'll spend some time considering what table means for our community of faith.
- Slide Two:
 - Let's start by considering a few reflections of table at Sardis. We've had virtual tables. We've had makeshift tables of doughnuts and coffee. We've had Shrove Tuesday and Easter breakfast at the IHOP. We've remembered transformative tables like the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro. We've read the sacred words aloud. We've shared a table with animals. We've blown out candles with joy. And cake, too!

NOTES

- Slide Three:
 - This morning, let's consider what happens at a table. In other words, what are the verbs and actions associated with tables?
 - We have to make space -- that is we have clear out room to be present.
 - We prepare -- there is lots of energy that goes into getting ready
 - We gather -- we intentionally decided to be a group of more than one
 - We share -- our resources, our time, our lives, ourselves
- Slide Four:
 - We receive -- we choose to welcome offerings and the spirit in which they are given
 - We reflect -- we ponder what's happening right now without being in a hurry
 - We reset -- we clean, we put things back, we go back to where we were, we re-center for what's next.
 - We rest -- we choose to be contented in the fullness around us: friendship, God's presence and provisions