



Capturing the Image of Table



WHAT HAPPENS AT A TABLE?

- Make Space
- Prepare
- Gather
- Share
- Receive
- Reflect
- Reset
- Rest

WHAT KINDS OF TABLES ARE IN OUR LIVES?

Familiar

These are the tables of routine, the ones we most often visit at home, school, and work.

Ordinal

These tables have more ritual associated with them, and they carry deeper significance: faith community suppers, weekly family dinners, Friday night clam strips at the Howard Johnson's.

Special

These tables require more planning, and often include extended participants beyond the household; they acknowledge sacred moments: holidays, birthdays, special occasions.

WHAT KINDS OF TABLES ARE IN OUR LIVES?

Mobile

These are the tables of necessity – the places we recharge when we're on the go: the car, the park bench, even Costco.

Spontaneous

These are the tables that happen in community – “let's grab a bite;” “hey, I've got extra, y'all come on over!”

Inaccessible

Since we are a community who seeks to model a practiced empathy, we should always be mindful of SO many neighbors, who for whatever reason, don't have tables of their own. And we should give thought to how we can make our own tables even more accessible.

REFLECTIONS

What kinds of tables have you occupied this week? Have any of them been fulfilling? Disappointing? Unexpected?

What is an ideal table? Are ideal tables attainable? Does a table have to be ideal in order to have value?

What makes a table accessible? What makes a table inaccessible? What role do both host and guest play in the accessibility/inaccessibility of 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:
 - Last week we considered 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
 - 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

NOTES

- Slides Four and Five:
 - This morning, let's consider the kinds of tables we encounter in our daily living
 - Familiar -- what are the most common tables in your day/week?
 - Ordinal -- these are special because they happen with consistency, but are set apart from daily meals; think community meals and gatherings
 - Special -- these meals are uncommon and reflect intentional preparation and celebration
 - Mobile -- these are the tables we make out of necessity
 - Spontaneous -- tables that happen in the moment and with organic authenticity
 - Inaccessible -- these are tables with boundaries, some spoken, some unspoken