



Luke 7:34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

Mark 2:13-17 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. **14** As he walked along, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. **16** When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Icebreaker

What is your favorite meal?

Conversation Starters

1. Talk about one of your best experiences at a meal table, and one of your worst ... what made them so different?
2. Alice talked about how meal tables were deeply symbolic back in Jesus' day? Do you think they are symbolic in any ways today? If so, how?
3. Why do you think Jesus used the meal table to smash people's ideas about who was "in" with his Father and who was "out?"
4. In what ways do you struggle with what Jesus did at the supper table? For instance, does it bother you that he seemed to indiscriminately eat with sinners, tax collectors, etc, especially when those folks didn't repent of their sin before Jesus let them eat with him?
5. What would it look like for you to start to use your meal table symbolically, like Jesus did? Who would you love to share a meal with who is very different from you?
6. Of the three words, Alice mentions at the end of her teaching - gratitude and attitude - which one struck you the most and why?
7. How might your Life Group host meals that would be more inclusive, like Jesus? Maybe make a plan to expand your guest list for a meal or two!