



Session 3:

Love is Why We Welcome

E — Eat

And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

-Luke 15:2 (CSB)

The table is one of the most powerful tools of the Kingdom.

Key Scripture: Luke 15:1-2; Luke 19:1-10

Overview

Jesus was famously criticized for eating with the wrong people — tax collectors, sinners, outcasts. He did it anyway, because He understood that the table is sacred space. Sharing a meal slows everything down, removes agendas, and creates the kind of natural, relaxed environment where real conversations happen. The challenge is to practice hospitality not as a performance, but as a regular rhythm of including people and making them feel genuinely welcomed.

Ice Breaker

What’s the most memorable meal you’ve ever shared with someone outside your normal circle — a neighbor, a stranger, a coworker? What made it stick with you?

PRAYER PROMPT

OPENING: Ask God to give your group a spirit of genuine hospitality — not the pressure of perfect hosting, but the warmth of simply including people and making room for them at the table.

Scripture Review

Read the key passage together, then work through these questions:

1. In Luke 15:1–2, the Pharisees grumble that Jesus “receives sinners and eats with them.” Why was eating together such a loaded act in that culture — and what was Jesus communicating by doing it anyway?
2. In Luke 19, Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus’ house for a meal before Zacchaeus has changed anything about his life. What does the sequence — meal first, transformation second — tell us about how God works?



Go Deeper

1. How is inviting someone to share a meal different from inviting them to church? Why might a meal actually be a more natural first step for many people?
2. What holds you personally back from this kind of informal hospitality — time, space, feeling like your home isn't good enough, not knowing what to say? How could your group help each other overcome those barriers?
3. Who is an “unexpected” person — someone outside your usual social circle — that God might be nudging you to share a table with? What would a realistic, low-pressure first step look like?



Notes / Group Reflections

THIS WEEK'S B.L.E.S.S. CHALLENGE

Invite one person from your B.L.E.S.S. list to share a meal, coffee, or snack with you this week. It doesn't need to be elaborate — a backyard cookout, a coffee shop, leftovers at the kitchen table. The goal is time, presence, and connection.

Who will I B.L.E.S.S. this week? _____



PRAYER PROMPT

CLOSING: Pray that God would make your homes and daily routines more open. Ask Him to give each person the courage to extend a simple, sincere invitation to someone who needs to know they belong.