

4. Take some practical steps- try this through 4/30 – baby steps to big steps
 - Take cookies, snacks, a meal- birthday, sickness, death, celebration, special occasion, crisis
 - Take the free church bread weekly- look for opportunities to BLESS- pray, listen, serve, share
 - Relate to others at work through food- coffee break, lunch
 - Go out to eat, have coffee, order in, invite over
 - Get a regular schedule- once a week, once a month, etc.
5. Deal with our stumbling blocks
 - a. I don't like having people over. I don't even like my own food. OK, so dine out, order in.
 - b. I don't know what to say. OK, so...
 - "Getting to know you" questions:
 - Where did you grow up? Where do you work? What jobs have you had?
 - Family- How did you meet? Kids? Parents?
 - Fun- What do you do for fun? Hobbies? Vacations? Sports?
 - Deeper- dreams for the future, problems, frustrations. Generally, we move from talking about things, to ideas and lastly to feelings when we feel safe.
 - If you meet regularly- ask about high, lows, buffalos (surprises) since you last met. Anything I can pray about?
 - c. I just don't have the time. OK, use what you already do. Most of us eat 21x a week. Include a friend once a week, or biweekly or monthly in what you are already doing. Use work lunch, etc.
6. Ask Jesus to give us his heart for lost sheep
 - II Cor 5¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all
 - Rom 5⁵ ... we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. 10:1 Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. (NLT)
 - How can we say God loves people, while we keep them at arm's l_____?

❖ **WHAT'S GOD SAYING TO YOU?** – write it down, pray it back, share it with others!

Heavenly Father, you are wonderful. Thank you for sending Jesus, who not only died for us, but wants to eat with us! Fill me with Your Spirit, so that I value and search for those who don't know you. Help me get practical and bless them with prayers, listening and eating. I especially feel You saying to me...

THRU 4/30 I BELIEVE GOD IS ASKING ME...

- ___ I will start taking bread to _____
- ___ On special occasions or randomly, I will start taking snacks, cookies, meals to _____
- ___ I will start eating my work lunch with _____ on these days of the week _____ or month _____.
- ___ I will dine out, order in or have _____ over for a meal this next month
- ___ I will take cookies to our church visitors

B.L.E.S.S.- EAT

3/27/22, Lk 15

5 EVERYDAY WAYS TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR & CHANGE THE WORLD!

Pray for your friends for Easter- 4/17!

GETTING OUR FEET WET-

A revival in South America, and the results...

- B- Begin with Prayer
- L- Listen
- E- Eat
- S- Serve
- S- Share your Story

1. So how do most people come to Jesus?
 - 2% by being visited – door knocking
 - 3% a special need
 - 3% a church program
 - 5% walk into church
 - 5% small group, Sunday School
 - 5.5% through the Pastor
 - _____% by Mass Evangelistic Meetings, TV (1 out of _____)
 - _____% by friends and relatives
2. So how can we be better friends?? - B.L.E.S.S.

DIVING INTO SCRIPTURE

Luke 15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

- Why did Jesus eat with sinners?
- He v_____ them and seeks them.
- Meals were part of his m_____ - of valuing & searching!- Lk 5:29-31

THE BIBLE ON EATING

1. God's first blessing involved f_____ Gen 1:28-30, I Tim 4:3-4- 10,000 taste buds
2. Isaac gave his blessing at a meal - Gen 27
3. The highlight of the week- the Sabbath meal
4. The highlight of the year- 3 F_____ - Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles
5. Blessings were to be shared at the family t_____ - Ps 128
6. God's blessing- enjoy your food and work- Eccl 5
7. Communion is a meal- bread and cup Jesus' body & blood
8. The early church ate in each other's homes- having favor with all the people Acts 2
9. Heaven is described as a f_____, wedding b_____ - Mt 8:11, 22:1ff, Rev 19
10. Heaven's trees have delicious fruit that are always in season -Rev 22
11. Jesus promises to eat with us & s_____ us – Lk 12:37, 22:14-16
12. God begins and ends the Bible with a meal!
13. Parallels to our society- when do people eat?

JESUS AND MEALS

1. How many meals are recorded about Jesus eating?
 - 1) After the 40 day fast (Mt 4)
 - 2) A wedding feast in Cana (Jn 2)
 - 3) Eating heads of grain on the Sabbath (Mt 12)
 - 4) At Matthew's party with tax collectors and sinners – “Come to call sinners” (Lk 5)
 - 5) Came eating & drinking, “A glutton, drunkard, friend of tax collectors & sinners” – Lk 7:34
 - 6) Anointed by a prostitute at Simon the Pharisee's dinner – “Forgiven much, loves much” (Lk 7)
 - 7) Feeds the 5,000 & later the 4,000 with bread & fish- they are satisfied (Mt 14,15)
 - 8) At Martha and Mary's house- “Martha, Martha, you're worried over many things” (Lk 10)
 - 9) At a Pharisee's house- not wash hands, 6 woes for not washing their hearts (Lk 11)
 - 10) At a Pharisee's house- Sabbath, heals, invite the poor, parable of the wedding banquet (Lk 14)
 - 11) Parables of lost sheep, coin & prodigal- because Jesus ate with sinners (Lk 15)
 - 12) Yearly feasts of Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, Dedication (Jn 7, 10)
 - 13) “Zacchaeus, I must come to your house” - eating implied- “seek & save” (Lk 19)
 - 14) Lazarus' funeral- eating implied (Jn 11)
 - 15) Dinner at Simon the Leper's where Mary anoints Jesus (Jn 12)
 - 16) Hungry, Jesus goes to the fig tree (Mk 11)
 - 17) The Last Supper- my body & blood, washes feet, “I am the Way”, “I am the Vine”, “I am sending the Holy Spirit”, prays (Jn 13-17)
 - 18) Breaks bread with the 2 disciples going to Emmaus (Lk 24)
 - 19) Eats fish with the disciples to show he is not a ghost (Lk 24)
 - 20) Prepares a shore side breakfast and restores Peter (Jn 21)
 - 21) Calls disciples to be with Him = 2 years of 3 meals/day = _____ meals (Mk 3:14, 6:31, 8:14)

2. How did Jesus use his meal?

- Bless by prayer
- Listen
- Eat
- Serve
- Share

IS EATING WITH OTHERS & “SINNERS” JUST FOR JESUS?

- Acts 2⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
- Acts 11² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

IN FACT WE ARE COMMANDED TO EAT WITH OTHERS & PROMISED REWARD

- Mt 10⁴² And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.” (NLT)
- Mt 25³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, & you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.’
- Rom 12¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. (NLT)- Hospitality – literally = delightful lodging
- I Tm 5¹⁰ and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.
- Heb 13² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

HOW CAN WE USE MEALS TO VALUE AND SEARCH TODAY?

1. Acknowledge eating blesses people.
 - In our culture, “hospitality is an extravagant gesture of goodwill” B.L.E.S.S., p 78
 - Huge common d_____ -breaks down barriers
 - Eating helps us to listen, serve and share!
 - Kids that turn out well come from homes that at least eat one meal together a _____.
2. Affirm that Jesus commands us to share our food and promises great r_____!
3. Believe that it works- for Jesus, the early church and us- Lk 15, Acts 2
 - We could change the world by eating with one person/family a week!