



Choose a Lens Discussion & Reflection Guide

Message & Scripture Discussion

- **What is one of the most memorable meals you've had?** Describe as many details as you can.
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- **Through what lens do you look at other people?** Can you identify your default way of seeing people? What do you WANT it to be?
- **Read Colossians 4:2-6.** What do you notice? How do these verses challenge you?
- Eddie shared, "We've made helping people find their way to God harder than it needs to be." **Have you ever felt like it is difficult to share about your faith? What are some of the barriers for you?**
- In the message, Eddie encouraged us to eat with people.
- **Read Luke 5:27-32.** Try to take in the details of the scene – the people, the sights and smells, and the emotions. What do you notice about Jesus and his decision to share a meal?
- **How intentionally do you use meals to connect with people?** After hearing this message, are there any people you need to schedule a meal with?
- **Take a moment and honestly answer this question: Am I avoiding or repelling the people Jesus would invite to share a meal with him?**
- Another practical challenge Eddie offered is for us to LISTEN well to people. **Are you more known as a talker or a listener?**
- Eddie shared two quotes about listening:
 - "Being heard is so much like being loved, most people can't tell the difference."
 - "The opposite of listening is not speaking – it is waiting to speak."
- **How do you react to these statements? How do they challenge you?**
- **After reflecting on this message, write down a quick response to two prompts:**
 - **Who has God placed in your life to bless?**
 - **What is the next step for you?**
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

Christmas at West Side

For all of the info about Christmas services and opportunities, go to wschurch.org/Christmas. You'll also find digital invites that make it easy to send a personal invitation to friends and family!

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- **Touchless Precheck**
- **Through what lens do you look at other people?**
- Colossians 4:5-6 (NIV) – “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”
- **People are not our problem. People are not our project. People are our passion.**
- **We don't bless people because it works; we bless people because love is our work.**
- John 3:16 (NIV) - “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...”
- **We've made helping people find their way to God harder than it needs to be.**
- **What if there were two simple ways to help people move toward God?**
- **“You do the blessing and let God do the converting.”**
- **Step 1 is to EAT with people.**
- **Wherever we share a meal with others becomes a sacred space.**
- **Eating was a central activity in Jesus' ministry.**
- Luke 22:15 - “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you...”
- **Inviting someone to share a meal communicates their value to us.**
- Luke 15:1 – “Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!”
- Luke 5:32 - “I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.”
- **Am I avoiding or repelling the people Jesus would invite to share a meal with him?**
- Henri Nouwen said, **“When we invite people to share a meal... we become food and drink for one another.”**
- **Do the math.**
- James 1:19 – “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”
- **Am I known as a talker or a listener?**
- **“Listening patiently is paying the relational rent.”**
- **“Being heard is so much like being loved, most people can't tell the difference.”**
- **“The opposite of listening is not speaking – it is waiting to speak.”**
- 1 Corinthians 9:22 – “Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.”
- **extend an invitation**
- **pull up a chair**
- **start at home**
- **schedule monthly meals**
- **start with Christmas at West Side**