



The Table

Gathering around and at the table is a time and place of great importance in the Bible. Fellowship among believers was built, love was shared, and essential conversations occurred. Not only does the table meet our familial and communal needs, but, as believers, we are invited to the Lord's table, where we celebrate communion, remembering what Jesus has done for us and the price He paid for our salvation.

As a church, we aim to encourage and equip you in your journey of discipleship toward Jesus. One way we have in mind to accomplish that goal is to present monthly table discussions built around obeying the commands of Jesus. In Luke 6:46, Jesus says, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" Our focus is devotion and obedience to Christ. Following his question, Jesus leads his disciples in a parable, ultimately teaching that we must build our lives on the rock, which in this case, is Christ and his teachings. At RockPile, we want you to be challenged to do what Jesus commanded so that we are fulfilling what he advises; to be firmly founded on the rock and able to weather any storm of life.

Therefore, each month, we will set our hearts, minds, and bodies on one command we see from Jesus in the Gospels. As part of our DNA, we aim to sit down at the table with our families, friends, co-workers, or anyone in our spheres of influence and hold each other accountable for following Jesus obediently.

The table can be in your home, around your dinner table, or around any other table you can find. At the coffee shop or your favorite restaurant. In the workplace break room or on the trails at the local park. Wherever your life and influence may take you, bring people with you and meet at the table.

May we be a church that follows the commands of Jesus and not only be hearers but doers of his Word (James 1:22).

You can find monthly examples of what a table discussion could be like by listening to the "Digital Table Podcast" found on our website or on Speaker, Apple Podcast, and Spotify.

April 2023: Repent

Repentance is not just a religious buzzword, but a transformative practice central to the Christian faith. In this month's discussion, we'll explore Jesus' command to repent and how we can practice it daily. But first, let's look at an example of radical repentance in the life of a king.

King Josiah was a remarkable leader who pursued God amidst the darkness that surrounded him. He ascended to the throne during a time of idolatry and apostasy in Israel due to his father and grandfather's leadership.

However, despite the moral decay that he inherited, Josiah chose to pursue God and put God and His law back at the center of the Israelites. When the book of the law of Moses was discovered after years of being lost in the temple, Josiah saw an opportunity for transformation. Still, it was only going to come through radical repentance. He uprooted all the idols and sin that had replaced God in people's lives and reformed the nation's practices around God's commands. It was through repentance that Josiah learned to live with a wholehearted commitment to follow God.

Josiah's life teaches us that repentance is a liberating and life-giving process that allows us to turn away from the sins and idols that rob us of joy and fulfillment and turn toward God's grace, forgiveness, and abundance of life. Repentance leads to a renewed sense of purpose as we align ourselves with God's will and seek to follow His commands. Through repentance, we can experience a deep sense of joy and fulfillment as we are set free from the bondage of sin and empowered to live a life that glorifies God.

In this month's discussion, let's explore Jesus' command to repent and how we can practice repentance in our daily lives. Use the Scriptures and questions below to guide your conversation around the table with others.

- **Matthew 4:17** — [17] From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- **Mark 1:15** — [15] and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
- **Luke 5:32** — [32] I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.
- **Luke 13:3** — [3] No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Kick-Start Questions for the Table:

- What does repentance mean to you?
- What are the idols or sins that we need to root out from our lives?
- How can we turn back to God and enjoy His presence?
- How has repentance transformed your life or the lives of those around you?
- What are some practical ways that you can incorporate repentance into your daily routine?
- What role does accountability play in the practice of repentance?