



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.

March 2023: Worship God

After centuries of enslavement, the people of Israel were rescued from the hand of the Pharaoh. From Egypt, they wandered in the wilderness to a promised land. No longer bound, under the tyranny of their captives, the Israelites would need to learn how to live, but not on their own. The key difference between the Israelites and any other nation during this time was their God; Yahweh, who was merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Exodus 34:6), who led them with pillars of cloud and fire (Exodus 13) and taught them with his law.

At a mount called Sinai, God called Moses up to receive commandments on how God's people should live. On the top of the list was "You shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3)." Fast forward to Jesus Christ and his teachings. In preparation for his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days and 40 nights fasting in the wilderness. It was there that he was tempted by Satan, yet prevailed with the proclamation that echoes the Exodus story. "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Worship is "a feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity." However, as we and our world age, we've learned to see ourselves and others fall into the trap of ascribing worth to things other than the One who has rescued us. This month, we hope to discuss this reality and what Christ asks of his followers.

Spend some time with the Scriptures and questions below to kick-start your time around the table with others.

Commands from Jesus to worship God alone:

- **Matthew 4:10** — [10] Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."
- **Matthew 6:24** — [24] "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
- **Matthew 15:8-9** — [8] "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; [9] in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."
- **John 4:23-24** — [23] But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Table Talk Starters:

- How would you define worship?
- Why is worship important?
- How do you worship?
- Are there things other than God that you find yourself idly worshipping?

Further Practices to Worship God:

- Reflect on who the Lord is and what he has done for you, in you, and through you.
- Spend time worshipping God in moments of silence and solitude, study, or adoration.
- Re-listen to your favorite worship songs or hymns, paying attention to what is being communicated.
- Read through and meditate on Psalms 8, 34, 40, 65, 92, 98, 100, 145, 146, or 150.