

APRIL 12, 2026

**BANQUET OF
BELONGING**
meals with Jesus

From Conversation
to Revelation

SERMON RESOURCE



OUR LITURGY

*The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.
And where the Spirit of the Lord is -
There is freedom!*

CONNECT

— 10 MINUTES

- What is one of your favorite meals you've shared with others—and what made it memorable?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to invite people into your home or space? Why?

Read Aloud:

- Matthew 28:5–7
- Luke 24:13–34

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

Jesus meets us in our confusion, walks with us in our story, and reveals Himself in relationship—especially around the table.

1. Processing Disappointment & Confusion

The disciples were overwhelmed with grief, confusion, and unmet expectations.

- When have you experienced a season like that?
- How did it affect your ability to see what God was doing?

The two on the road said, “We had hoped...”

- What expectations of God have you had that didn't turn out the way you thought?

2. Jesus Draws Near in the Middle of It

Jesus comes alongside them, but they don't recognize Him. Have you ever felt like God was absent, only to later realize He was present?



- Jesus asks, “What are you discussing?”
- What does this tell you about His character and how He relates to us?
- How comfortable are you being honest with Jesus about your thoughts and feelings?

3. From Misunderstanding to Revelation

Jesus reframes their understanding through Scripture.

- Why is it important to interpret our lives through God’s story rather than our expectations?

They were “telling the wrong story” or “the right story in the wrong way” (N.T. Wright idea).

- Where might you be misunderstanding your own story right now?
- What might it look like to let Jesus reinterpret it?

4. The Power of Invitation

Jesus acts like He will keep walking, but they invite Him.

- What does this reveal about how Jesus engages with us?
- Where might Jesus be waiting for your invitation right now?

5. Recognition Happens at the Table

They recognize Jesus when He breaks bread.

- Why do you think this moment—sharing a meal—was significant?
- “Didn’t our hearts burn within us...”
- Have you ever experienced a moment where something in your spirit recognized truth before your mind fully understood it?



6. Belonging Through Shared Meals

The early church was devoted to:

- Scripture
- Fellowship
- Meals
- Prayer

Why do you think meals were such a central part of spiritual life?

The message said: *"Nothing says belonging like eating together"* and *"eating together leads to bonding, not the other way around."*

- Do you agree? Why or why not?

7. From Conversation to Revelation

- How have meaningful conversations helped you experience deeper spiritual insight or connection?
- What would it look like for your everyday meals (family, friends, group) to become places where:
- Jesus is acknowledged?
- People feel they belong?
- Spiritual conversations can happen naturally?

APPLICATION

— 30 MINUTES

Take a quiet moment and reflect:

- Where in your life do you need to recognize that Jesus is already walking with you?
- What disappointment or expectation do you need to surrender to Him?
- Who could you invite to "break bread" with you in the next couple of weeks?

When you eat together:

- Pause and thank God for provision and presence.
- Ask: "Jesus, open our eyes to see You here with us."
- Invite the Holy Spirit to take you from conversation to revelation



GOING DEEPER

— 20 MINUTES

Watch [THIS](#) Bible Project video about Luke 24 (five minutes):

Check out some cool research on “Breaking Bread: the Functions of Social Eating” - click [HERE](#).

