

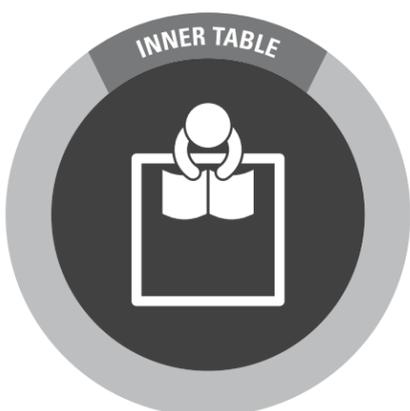
# Sermon Notes



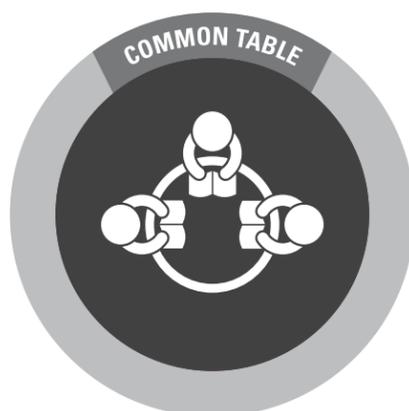
**First  
Friends  
Church**

“Love Doesn’t Hide”

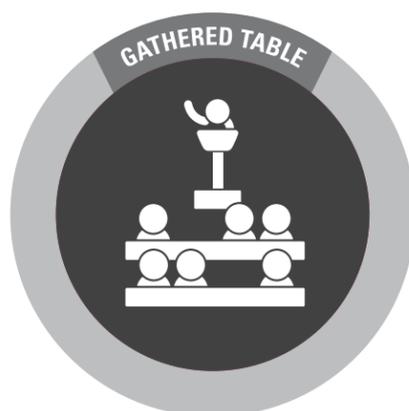
April 21st, 2019 | Easter Sunday!



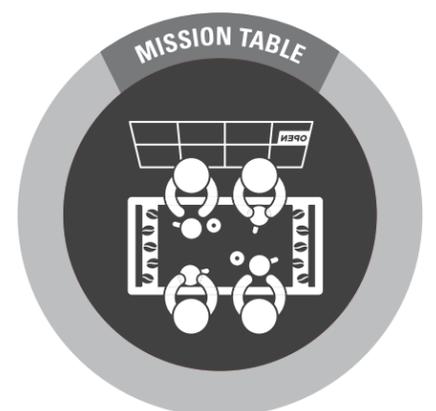
*Seeking God*  
in Solitude



*Finding God*  
in Friendship



*Celebrating God*  
in Community



*Reflecting God*  
in Relationships

## Reflection Questions *(please use these individually or in groups)*

### Sermon Questions:

1. Do you know of someone whose life appears locked up, locked down, or locked in? Pray that the presence of Jesus would transcend their locks.
2. What kind of fear is shadowing your life? Ask Jesus to speak the words, "Peace be with you!" to your heart.
3. What kinds of wounds do you hide from people? Are there ways your wounds might actually help bring healing to others?
4. Ask God to reveal how/where he might be sending you this week, this summer, or this year.

### Additional Questions:

5. Do you consider fear to be one of the biggest "enemies" in following Jesus? What fears hold you back from your calling?
6. How are you handling your wounds? Do you talk to other trusted people about them? Have you sought help? What fears are holding you back?
7. What does it look like for you, in your ordinary life, to be a "sent person?" Hint: Think small. What are some tangible ways that your everyday life can look more like love?

## Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **John 20:19-29** | If we're being honest, we've all struggled with doubts. But the opposite of faith isn't doubt, it's apathy. Thomas did not give up in his pursuit to believe in the risen Lord. He asked to touch his wounds. What do you need to ask God to show you as you pursue Jesus, even through the doubts?
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** | Why is it so significant that Jesus is not some far off God but is one who "empathizes with our weaknesses?"
- **Philippians 2:5-8** | What can you learn from the humility of Jesus? Are there areas in your life where humility doesn't often shine through?
- **Acts 4:1-22** | What does it say about the nature of God that he would use regular, ordinary people to change the world?

## Self-Care Disciplines *(Excerpts from Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster)*

### April Discipline: True Service | (p.129) "Selectivity & Function"

If true service is to be understood and practiced, it must be distinguished clearly from "self-righteous service." This month, we will look at several of these differences. Pray that God would allow you to find opportunities for "true service" in your life.

Self-righteous service picks and chooses whom to serve. Sometimes the high and powerful are served because that will ensure a certain advantage. Sometimes the low and defenseless are served because that will ensure a humble image. True service is indiscriminate in its ministry. It has heard the command of Jesus to be the "servant of all" (Mark 9:35). Brother Francis of Assisi notes in a letter, "Being the servant of all, I am bound to serve all and administer the balm-bearing words of my Lord."

Self-righteous service is temporary. It functions only while the specific acts of service are being performed. Having served, it can rest easy. True service is a life-style. It acts from ingrained patterns of living. It springs spontaneously to meet human needs.

**Note: Don't let these burden you each week. Please engage only if you feel it would be beneficial in caring for yourself. Sometimes self-care involves giving yourself a break, even from self care disciplines.**