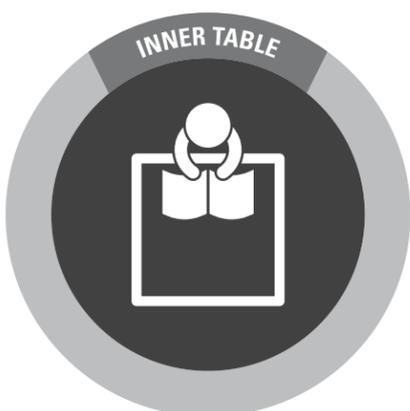


Sermon Notes

“Reroute”
December 8th, 2019



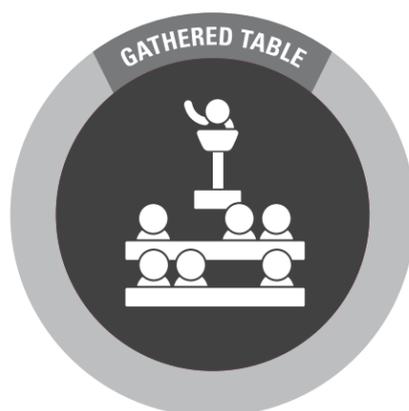
First
Friends
Church



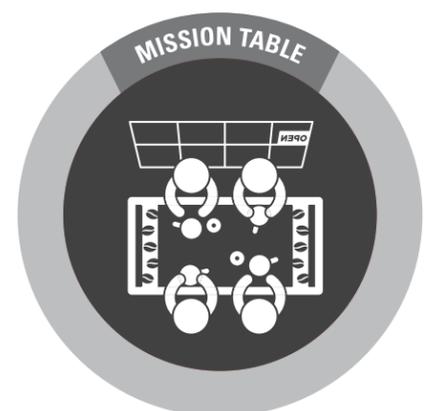
Seeking God
in Solitude



Finding God
in Friendship



Celebrating God
in Community



Reflecting God
in Relationships

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

Discussion Questions:

1. Where are you on the journey toward Jesus? Are your eyes fixed on the light of his glory? Does your heart overflow with worship? Have you given your treasures to Him?
2. Is there anyone in your life trying to influence your journey who might have ulterior motives?
3. Is God leading you to take a different route than you initially expected? Seek discernment from the Spirit if you feel like the path ahead isn't the most obvious and straight-forward, but might be the best route for God's unfolding purposes.

Additional Questions:

4. Are there things in this life that you treasure significantly? How do you view these “treasures” in light of your relationship with Jesus?
5. What is the focal point in your life's journey? Have you ever experienced a change in this? Are you open to God changing it as you go along? (side note: this can be a stretching experience for those who love to have everything planned out!)

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **Matthew 2:1-12** | Why do you think God guided the Magi away from Herod? What is it about Jesus that makes him a threat to power and the status quo?
- **Matthew 6:19-24** | How did the Magi, who would have not heard these words of Jesus yet, live out Jesus' message of serving two masters? Have you considered that wealth, and the accumulation of it, is a master?
- **Proverbs 4:8-18** | Is it possible that the greatest treasure we can receive is the knowledge and love of God? How much value do you place in this?
- **2 Corinthians 4:1-12** | What does it say about God that he would keep his treasure in “clay jars?”

Self-Care Disciplines *(Excerpts from Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster)* December Discipline: Study | Concentration (p.64-65)

Study is a specific kind of experience in which through careful attention to reality the mind is enabled to move in a certain direction. The mind will always take on an order conforming to the order upon which it concentrates. Perhaps we observe a tree or read a book. We see it, feel it, understand it, draw conclusions from it. And as we do, our thought processes take on an order conforming to the order in the tree or book. When this is done with concentration, perception and repetition, ingrained habits of thought are formed.

Study involves four steps. Repetition, concentration, comprehension, reflection. Concentration is the second step in study. If, in addition to bringing the mind repeatedly to the subject matter, the person will concentrate on what is being studied, learning is vastly increased. Concentration centers the mind. It focuses the attention on what is being studied. The human mind has an incredible ability to concentrate. It constantly receives thousands of stimuli, each one of which is stored in its memory banks while it focuses on only a few. This natural ability of the brain is enhanced when, with singleness of purpose, we center our attention upon a desired object of study.

Pick a passage of scripture this week and aim your attention solely on it. Block out the things that distract you so that God can speak to you through his word.

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 discipline