**Week 4: At the Table**

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**:Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart;

 test me and know my anxious thoughts.

See if there is any offensive way in me,

 and lead me in the way everlasting.

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**Day 2:** Isaiah 41:10

“So do not fear, for I am with you;
    do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
    I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

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**Day 3:** Philippians 2:3-5

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

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**Day 4:** Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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**Day 5:** 1 Peter 4:8-9

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

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Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways did the religious leaders of Jesus’s day twist the truth to suit their own agenda? How can we avoid doing the same thing in our own lives?

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2. Why do you think the Pharisees were so threatened by Jesus’s teachings? What were they afraid of losing? The Pharisees liked to set traps for Jesus. In our story for this week, how did Jesus turn the tables? (See Luke 14:2-6.)

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3. How does Jesus’s warning against hypocrisy apply to us today? The maneuvering for places of honor in Luke 14:7-11 was normal behavior. What are we to make of Jesus’s advice to take a lower position so you would get moved up? How does this make us look like Jesus?

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4. How can we avoid being swayed by popular opinion when it comes to our faith? What does it mean to stand firm in our convictions? Pharisees liked to practice “reciprocity” with their banquet attendees. Why does Jesus speak against this? What is the difference between reciprocity and grace?

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5. What stops us from being hospitable when the Bible clearly expects it of God’s people? Comment on the following statement: The focus of entertaining is impressing others; the focus of true hospitality is serving others. Maybe this is the time to invite a new couple to your LifeGroup for a meal. Think about some you might invite!

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