

Discussion Notes

Communion: Before the Table

August 28, 2016

Doug Smith

This series asks: who are we? Living Waters Church is rooted in Jesus and is guided by the Bible. We share seven core values that express the heart of Jesus and are biblically grounded. This series will seek to explore these values through the metaphor of *Communion*.

Before the Meal – Welcome and Invitation

- A little about who we are.

During the Meal – Togetherness and Nourishment

- Community
- Authenticity
- Spiritual Formation
- Worship

After the Meal – Purpose and Growth

- Generosity
- Recognizing and Releasing
- The Great Commission

Before the Meal

Jesus was an Inviter

- John 7.37 - Is anyone thirsty?
- John 6.51 – The bread come down from heaven.
- Luke 19 – Zacchaeus, I'd like to share a meal with you!
- Luke 14 – Fill up the house!
- When we welcome we understand the express the very heart of Jesus.

LWC has been about invitation and welcome for 75 years

- Early bus ministry in the 1940s.
- The influence of Ken and Eunice Gaglardi to be generous and faith filled.
- The bottom line is that you and I are at the heartbeat of invitation and welcome. We are at our best when we model Jesus in this way.

Who are we now?

- Denominationally, s Pentecostal church, though you don't need to be Pentecostal in tradition to belong. We learn from each other and are an eclectic group of people.
- Biblically orthodox.
- Egalitarian (both women and lead and teach).

- Not pastor-centric. We aim to serve the community as best we can. We don't need to be the center of attention, because Jesus should be. We will fail you from time to time, but Jesus never will.
- We believe a church should look more like a community garden than a supermarket. We gather to serve and receive, not just to consume (Romans 12.5-6)

Discussion Questions

- What made Jesus such a welcoming and invitational person?
- Share a time in your life when you felt especially welcome somewhere. Why did you feel that way?
- What are some ways we can or should be welcoming to one another or others?
- What makes welcome and invitation challenging?
- What makes welcome and invitation fulfilling?