

**INTRO**

- When was the last time you shared a meal with someone (other than your family)? Share the experience.

Resolved means “firmly determined to do something.” This series aims to inspire and equip us to live our lives with resolve, both individually and as a church community, around PEBCI.

**READ**

Luke 5:27-32

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

Sharing a meal is meaningful in every culture. In Jesus’ day, “table fellowship” was central to Jewish life and culture, a sign of welcome and good standing with the community and even God himself. It was also a boundary marker showing who was and wasn’t acceptable socially and religiously.

*Qu: what are the benefits of eating with others, especially those beyond our family/friends circle?*

**JESUS & MEALS**

In Luke’s gospel, Jesus uses meals as a:

- **Sign** of God’s welcome into the kingdom;
- **Demonstration** of invitation, not separation;
- **Challenge** to people’s (particularly the religious) understanding of God’s character, grace, and salvation.

The Motive?

*The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. — Jesus, Luke 19:10*

The Method?

*The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ — Jesus, Luke 7:34*

*Qu; reflect on Jesus’ controversial method to reach out to those far from God. What challenges/encourages you about his practice?*

Jesus’ practice of eating and drinking with people far from God is what the NT calls hospitality. Practicing hospitality is the generous and gracious treatment of others, often through sharing a table with them.

**PEBCI: Eat**

As we pray for people on our PEBCI card, the next step is to look for ways to eat—practice hospitality—with them. This means we’re intentionally creating space in our lives and schedules to share a meal, drink, or coffee. At the table, we talk. We open up to one another and make deeper connections. Who knows what God may do with your conversation?!

*Qu: is there anyone on your PEBCI card you can take this next step with? What will it take for you to make this a regular practice in your life? Brainstorm creative ways hospitality can be practiced in our weekly lives and challenge one another to do something this coming week.*

Why is this important? When we do this to others, we are reciprocating the generous hospitality of God himself toward them, the way he first extended it to us.

**RESPOND & PRAY**

- Pray for God’s heart towards others, especially those we know that are far from God.
- Pray for conversations and connections to go deeper as we step out and practice hospitality.