

TABLE QUESTIONS – 2019/2020

SEPTEMBER

Thank you for joining us for TABLE this year. Each month we will gather with the purpose of encouraging one another in the Lord by engaging in gospel-centered conversations. When we meet, we will share a meal, but more importantly, we will share our lives. Open your hands with palms facing up as I share 2 Corinthians 13:14:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (Let’s pray...)

Open with prayer and read Hebrews 10:19-25.

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more ask you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:19-25

- How have you seen the Lord’s faithfulness in your life?
- How can His past faithfulness give you hope in this season of your life?
- What promises of the Lord can you hold onto when you grow weary?
- What would it look like for you to live in expectation of the Lord right now?

Use Question #4 to guide your closing prayer time

OCTOBER

Open with prayer and read James 3:13-18.

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”
James 3:13-18

- What feels like the biggest challenge in your life right now?
- Who do you usually look to for help in navigating decisions?
- Describe a time when you asked God for wisdom. How did it turn out?
- In what area of your life do you need to lean on God in a big way with decision-making?

Use Question #4 to guide your closing prayer time

NOVEMBER

Open with prayer and read Colossians 3:12-17

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace, And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:12-17

- Who is someone in your life who has exemplified compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness? How has that affected you?
- Who could you encourage with one of these specific attributes (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness)?
- What is something that you are doing or could be doing to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” so that it can spill over into the lives of those around you?
- Partner up and read Colossians 3:12-17 to each other filling in the blank with each other’s name:

Therefore, as God’s chosen daughter, holy and dearly loved, clothe _____ with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. May she bear with with others and forgive whatever grievances she may have against them. May _____ forgive as the Lord forgave her. And over all of these virtues, may _____ put on love, which binds all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in _____’s heart, since as a member of one body she was called to be peace, and to be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in _____ richly as she teaches and admonishes others with all wisdom, and she sings psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in her heart to God. And whatever _____ does, whether in word or deed, may she do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

One person close by reading the MESSAGE paraphrase of Colossians 3:12-17:

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered,

content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

JANUARY

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope, when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”
Ephesians 4:1-6

- Who was your best friend when you were growing up? What was your favorite thing about that person?
- What obstacles or fears make it difficult for you to give yourself away in friendship in this season of life?
- What quality or characteristic do you most value in a friendship?
- What changes could you make so that your calendar reflects your willingness to invest more in deep and caring friendships?

Use Question #4 to guide your closing prayer time.

FEBRUARY

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:1-2

- Who is someone that you think of as a spiritual parent in your life?
- What’s one piece of advice you received from an older woman that impacted your life?
- How would you encourage someone younger in your life?
- What is a specific way that you can cultivate life-giving relationships (like Timothy)?

MARCH

Open in prayer and read Psalm 119:9-16

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise to you, O Lord; teach me Your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from Your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoicing in great riches. I meditate on Your precepts and consider Your ways. I delight in Your decrees; I will not neglect Your word.” Psalm 119:9-16

- What are some of the reasons why you or others may not practice memorizing God’s Word?
- Why is “hiding God’s Word in your heart” an important practice?
- Is there a specific verse or passage that you have hidden in your heart or that you would like to hide in your heart? Describe the significance of it for you.
- Describe a time when someone has shared God’s “hidden in their heart” Word with you in a meaningful way.

APRIL

This is the final gathering of TABLE for this year. Thank you for your faithfulness! The verses today will provide comfort and encouragement as we prepare to take a summer break. May you cling to the promise of the with-ness of God through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And just as we did at our first gathering of the year, please open your hands with palms facing up as I share 2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (Let’s pray...)

Open in prayer and read Psalm 139:7-10.

- “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast.” Psalm 139:7-10
- What is a specific area in your life where you need to depend more on God?
- In what way(s) can you practice being in the presence of the Lord?

- When you struggle to feel close to God or when you feel He is silent, what do you know to be true about His presence?
- Read Psalm 139:7-10. What do these verses mean to you?

SUMMER OPTION

Open in prayer and read Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11

“God is our Refuge and Strength, an Ever-Present Help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah. Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11

- What are current areas of weakness/overwhelm in your life?
- Where do you typically run to find security or relief in times of trouble?
- How can you set “towers of refuge” when faced with hardships?
- Read Psalm 46: 1-3, 10-11. What stands out to you today and why?