

Growth Group Questions  
Week of November 11

1. Is there a table that you remember from your childhood? Describe what was your table like? Would you share a memory or two about your time around the table?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the statement about families not connecting at supper time anymore? If so why? Can you think of a reason why family and friends have trouble connecting with each other? Is it possible for a table to be the center of our conversations to reconnect with each other?
3. The last supper was a time in which Jesus gathered around a table. Can you think of any other places in scripture where Jesus gathered around a table? Read Luke 7:36, Luke 24:30.
4. When we take communion together it is a means of God's grace. It is also a time when we come face to face with God. Reclining at a table for the disciples was a time of community. Can you think of other places where you have developed community? What does community look like to you? How can you be more intentional about developing community?
5. Can you describe a time where you experienced authentic community? Can eating at the table become a place for invitation in your life?

## **Lectio Divina for Growth Groups**

Mark 14: 12-16

The phrase lectio divina is Latin for “sacred reading” and describes an ancient approach to reading the scripture that originated in the Benedictine tradition. Including this practice in our Growth Group meetings this semester will do at least three things: 1) Invite each person to go deeper into study of the week’s sermon text. 2) Invite each group to go deeper into group discussions each week. 3) Equip each person with a spiritual practice that can be used on a daily basis with any passage of scripture during personal devotion time.

A group practice of lectio divina includes three readings of the text aloud. It is best to choose three different readers and three different translations, if possible. During each reading, group members will listen for three different but related purposes as detailed below. Silence will follow each reading, and then discussion will follow at the very end.

### **First Reading**

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: One group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for a word or phrase that jumps out in their minds. Tip: Simply acknowledge the word or phrase without judgment or analysis.

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of that word or phrase.

### **Second Reading**

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: A second group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for why that original word or phrase might have jumped out in their minds. Tip: Ask, “What is going on with me right now that this word or phrase might have significance in my life?”

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of what they have discerned.

### **Third Reading**

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: A third group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for what God might be calling them to do with the information they’ve learned in the first two readings. Tip: Ask, “How is God inviting me to respond to what’ve I learned tonight? What action might I take?”

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of what they have discerned.

Group Discussion