

An hospitable community

discussion guide

based on **Luke 7.34** (Linked to sermon of 10/9/17)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was the second part of our 'What sort of community should we be?' series.

Intro: Describe a friendship that has developed or deepened over shared meals.

Luke 7.34 "Jesus came eating and drinking ... a friend of tax-collectors and sinners." That was his reputation. Try to recall some of the meals you remember Jesus having with others – and what the outcome of those meals was.

Why was it so revolutionary for Jesus to eat with 'tax collectors and sinners'?
What would be the equivalent for us today?

Get different people to look up Romans 12.13; Hebrews 13.2; 1 Peter 4.9.
Why do you think hospitality is a consistent command in the early churches?

Dan encouraged us to 'eat like Jesus' – to intentionally use meals as times to share life and faith with others.

What was your initial reaction to this challenge to 'eat like Jesus'? Why?

"Often we maintain significant boundaries when offering help to persons in need. Many churches prepare and serve meals to hungry neighbours, but few church members find it easy to sit and eat with those who need the meal. We often find it more comfortable to cook and clean for them than to share a meal and conversation. We are familiar with roles as helpers but are less certain about being equals eating together." [Christine Pohl, quoted in Tim Chester "Meals with Jesus"]- Discuss.

Dan identified some reasons that stop us practising hospitality:

- a) practical reasons
- b) embarrassment

What other reasons can you identify?

Are these genuine reasons or excuses?

How might you overcome these reasons / excuses?

What do you think would be some of the benefits of 'eating like Jesus'?

Up: Read Revelation 3.20 and spend time worshipping Jesus for his grace to you – inviting you to his meal table, and coming to yours.

In: What sort of people from church could you share a drink / afternoon tea / meal with to encourage them?

Out: Think about the Harvest 'Share a meal' fundraising project. Pray about which friends to consider inviting to a meal.