

CREATING SPACE - CELEBRATION

Nehemiah 8:10, Luke 14:7-24, John 2:1-12

Jesus' first miracle kept a wedding feast alive, and Nehemiah told the people, "The joy of the Lord is your strength." Some of the most important moments in life happen around a table, celebrating life with laughter, stories, and connection. Discover how throwing a party, gathering at the table as God's people, strengthens faith, builds community, and brings the kingdom of God to life among us.

Day 1: Read Nehemiah 8:9–12.

Practice: Do one small, intentional joy-filled thing today (a favorite song, coffee with a friend, ice cream with family) and name it as a gift from God before you do it.

Reflection question: Where have I been treating joy as optional instead of essential?

Day 2: Read Luke 14:12–14.

Practice: Think about a meal you'll have this week. Who could you include, literally or figuratively, who might not expect an invitation? Offer an invitation!

Reflection question: Who has made room for me when I didn't expect it?

Day 3: Read John 2:1–11.

Practice: During a meal or joyful moment today, pause and silently pray: "Jesus, thank you for being here." If it makes sense, share the prayer with those around you.

Reflection question: Where might God be quietly sustaining joy in my life without drawing attention to it?

Day 4: Read Acts 2:46–47.

Practice: Share a meal with someone this week, and as you eat, present this question: "*What's one thing that brings you joy?*"

Reflection question: How can sharing joy strengthen faith and deepen my connection to others?

Day 5: Read Luke 24:28–32.

Practice: Choose one ordinary moment today (a meal, a conversation) and treat it as sacred. Slow down, savor it, and look for Christ's presence in the moment.

Reflection question: What keeps me from noticing Christ's presence in ordinary moments?

Day 6: Read Revelation 19:6–9.

Practice: Have you invited someone to share a meal with you? Do it today. (PS There is a pancake brunch coming up that might be the perfect invitation!)

Reflection question: How can I share God's joy with others by offering an invitation and gathering around a table?

God's grace doesn't wait for perfect conditions; it shows up in our daily encounters. Which means, the spiritual tool of celebration doesn't require escaping real life, just noticing where God is already at work in it.

Celebration isn't just throwing a good party; it's turning ordinary tables into sacred spaces for sharing the love and grace of Jesus.