God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Who's at Your Table?

Speaker: Julie Pedroza

Highlighted Scripture

- **Matthew 5:13–16**
  Jesus calls His followers the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Our faith isn't meant to remain hidden. Julie uses this passage to ask whether our lives are actually allowing people outside our normal Christian circles to see the character of Christ.

- **Matthew 9:9–13**
  After calling Matthew, Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners. When the Pharisees question Him, Jesus responds that it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick, and that He came to call sinners. Julie uses Jesus' example to challenge believers to consider whether we're willing to build relationships with people who don't already think or live like us.

- **Colossians 3:12–13**
  Paul tells God's people to clothe themselves with

compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with and forgiving one another. Julie turns these qualities inward and asks whether they genuinely characterize the way she interacts with others.

• Colossians 4:2–6
Believers are called to devote themselves to prayer, make the most of every opportunity, act wisely toward outsiders, and let their conversations be "always full of grace, seasoned with salt." This passage brings Julie's message together: reaching people with truth while demonstrating the grace and character of Christ.

Discussion Questions

• Julie asks herself whether she is truly modeling godly character in ordinary interactions. What might the people who spend time around you say about the way you represent Christ?

• Jesus intentionally ate with people the religious community often avoided. What can His example teach us about the people we choose to build relationships with?

• Julie realizes that most of the people in her circle are already Christians. Is there a danger in becoming so comfortable within Christian community that we rarely develop meaningful relationships with people outside it?

• Colossians 4 tells us to speak with both grace and truth. Why are both important when talking with someone whose beliefs or lifestyle differ from ours?

• Of the six areas Julie mentions—godly character, good work,

grace and love, influencing culture, truth and justice, and sharing the Gospel—which area most challenges you personally?

Reflection Challenge

Take Julie's challenge and examine how your faith reaches beyond your normal circle.

Ask yourself:

• Does the way I treat people make Christ attractive to those around me?

• Am I showing compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience when interacting with difficult people?

• Do I have meaningful relationships with people who don't already believe or think like I do?

• When I speak truth, is my conversation also "full of grace"?

Try this:

• Choose one of the six areas Julie discusses and intentionally focus on it this week.

• Pay attention to one interaction where impatience normally comes easily and intentionally respond with grace.

• Have a genuine conversation with someone outside your usual circle without treating them as a project—listen, care, and get to know them.

• Ask God to open a natural opportunity for you to demonstrate or share the hope you have in Christ.

Remember

- **Salt is useful when it comes into contact with something.**
- **Light isn't meant to remain hidden.**
- **Jesus intentionally spent time with people who needed Him.**
- **Christian community is important, but it should not become a Christian bubble.**
- **Truth should be communicated with grace.**
- **Sometimes reaching others begins by simply making room for them at our table.**

Prayer

Father God,

Thank You for the people You have placed in my life. Help me honestly examine whether my words, attitudes, and actions reflect the character of Jesus.

Clothe me with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Keep me from becoming so comfortable inside my own circle that I overlook the people around me who need Your love. Give me wisdom in the way I interact with those who believe or live differently than I do. Help my conversations be full of grace while giving me courage to stand for truth.

Open doors for genuine relationships, and help me be salt and light wherever You place me.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.