



"Life On Mission" – Connect (Matthew 9:10-13)  
October 26, 2014 – TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Begin by reading the devotion inside the bulletin. This is also posted online on [facebook.com/fcctown](https://facebook.com/fcctown) and at [fcctown.com/media.php](https://fcctown.com/media.php) under the sermon video.

### Looking Back

- 1) During this past week, where have you seen God's hand at work in or around you?
- 2) What is the greatest encouragement or challenge you have experienced this week?

If you were unable to attend worship on Sunday, please go to [fcctown.com](https://fcctown.com) and watch Sunday's sermon prior to meeting with your weekly table group.

If we never spend time with people who are far from God, it's going to be impossible to introduce them to Jesus. Jesus set an example for us by hanging around with people who needed him—people who needed to be healed, not just physically but spiritually. Many of us tend to keep our social and relational circles limited to people who act and believe just as we do. Or we think that connecting with people who aren't Christians means preaching at them, not just hanging out with them. Jesus calls his followers not only to believe in him, but to live like him. That often begins with choosing to connect with people who are far from God.

### Digging Deeper

Where is your favorite place to hang out with friends?

Tell about a time when you were welcomed to a gathering of people. What happened and how did it make you feel?

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 9:10-13 (Read before answering the following questions)

Why was it so shocking to people when they saw who Jesus was eating with?

Why is it important that we hang out with people who are not followers of Jesus?

Romans 12:2 says, *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."* (NIV) People often use this verse as a reason to NOT hang out with people who are not followers of Jesus. But if Jesus calls us to be "witnesses" and to be "salt and light" to all people, then how can this verse give us guidance in how we witness to people who do not follow Jesus?

What are some of your non-church activities where you could connect with people who need Jesus?

Non-Christians don't just hear our words, they watch how we live. Take some time this week to identify behaviors in your life that might be stumbling blocks that prevent others from being open to hearing about Jesus. Make a commitment to ask God to help you remove any behaviors that don't align with the faith you profess.

Who is in your Jerusalem right now that you can connect with and what are you going to do about it?

### Moving Forward

Considering this week's teaching and group discussion, what can your table group do or pray for you?

If you would like to talk with a minister, please call (270) 765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones [stuart@fcctown.com](mailto:stuart@fcctown.com) Senior Minister  
Chris Kiger [chris@fcctown.com](mailto:chris@fcctown.com) Student Minister  
Jason Fox [jason@fcctown.com](mailto:jason@fcctown.com) Small Group Minister

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Material provided by the Development Arena of *First Christian Church in Elizabethtown, KY*

**What are the purposes of a table group?** To dig deeper into the Biblical principle(s) presented each Sunday morning during the FCC worship hour, to connect and share with other group members and to support one another as we strive to live out each week's teaching.

**What does a table group do?** A group discussion guide will be provided in the bulletin each Sunday and will be available on the FCC Facebook page by noon on Monday. The discussion guide will focus the group and challenge each participant to action.

**Who establishes and makes up a table group?**

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

**Where do they meet?**

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

**How often do they meet?** Weekly (day and time is decided by the group)

**How long should the weekly meeting last?** Varies (decided by the group)

**Who leads a table group?** Leadership can be shared or a leader can be chosen by the group.

**How long does the group stay together?** The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together for another season (6-8 weeks).

**Is a table group an official FCC group?** Table groups are not organized by FCC but are provided as opportunities for individuals to connect and become better followers of Jesus. FCC would like to know how this opportunity is being utilized. When your group establishes a place, time, and participants, please report to Doug Mitchell at (270) 765-4994 or [doug@fccetown.com](mailto:doug@fccetown.com).

**Can an individual be a part of more than one table group?** Yes, but our goal is that every individual attending a worship service be a part of at least one table group.

**What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table?** No table group should have more than 10 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 10 participants, there are two options:

- 1) Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 10).
- 2) Or seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants). To establish a life group, contact Doug Mitchell at (270) 765-4994 or [doug@fccetown.com](mailto:doug@fccetown.com).