



**Date:** 4/28/24

**Title:** A Meal for Everyone

**Scripture:** Luke 14:15-24

### **Introduction to Analog**

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.”

Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

### **Teaching Season**

There are several stories that cause one to wonder exactly who Jesus is. While we may be quick to offer an answer, Luke does no such thing. Rather he tells several stories of parables, interactions and miracles all leading up to Jesus asking the question himself: “Who do you say I am?” And we are invited to respond.

### **Teaching**

Meals were far more than simple “get-togethers” in Jesus’ day. They meant connection, identification and even went as far as meaning approval of the other. It is at a meal with some religious folks that Jesus tells a stunning parable about the inclusiveness of God’s heart. And what other story to tell at a meal than a story about a meal?

Jesus’ story tells a story about a king hosting a banquet and those who end up at the table are not those who everyone expected at the table. More than that, those who are supposed to be at the table are no longer welcome at the table.

This story reflects Jesus’ ministry while he was on earth. Always eating and spending time with the wrong people as a way of showing people that all are welcome at God’s table. This is not how we typically think. We often think about who is allowed at God’s table and we leave that decision up to our standards and regulations. Perhaps we need to ask – how big is God’s table?

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

**Opening Question for the Group:** Start your group discussion with the question below.

1. What’s the best meal you’ve ever had (or at least top 3), and why?

### **Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. Paula talked about the transition from believing, behaving, and belonging, how have you experienced these expectations, and what has their shift looked like in your spiritual journey?
2. If belief, behavior, and belonging aren't the markers of being in the faith—what makes us distinctly Christian?
3. Where do we go from here? Is there something you feel the faith shifting towards or that you wish the faith would shift towards?

### **Spiritual Practice:**

We're going to change up our spiritual practice this week, instead of engaging the podcast and guided practices therein, I want you to break up in groups of 2 or 3 and participate in a listening practice together.

Have each person spend 2-3 minutes sharing about something going on in their life. As you listen, be attentive to what they share, and have one ear (so to speak) on the Spirit. When they have finished sharing ask questions about what they've shared. These questions may feel like they've bubbled up from a gut-like response. Our goal here is not to give advice or have a "thus sayeth the Lord moment..." but rather to create space for listening alongside one another, being curious, and to practice listening for the Holy Spirit on behalf of my neighbor.

Couple Guidelines:

1. Ask questions, don't give advice
2. Don't over-complicate this practice, it should feel natural
3. Be curious
4. Keep what your partners share with you confidential