

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR TABLE TALK: Meeting Jesus at the Dinner Table

Meals are important to us today, but in the first century, they were nearly sacred. By taking advantage of long, unrushed meals around tables with His disciples, sinners, and Pharisees, Jesus revealed much of His heart and the purpose of His ministry. *Table Talk* will take a deeper look at what Jesus said during meals in the Gospel of Luke to see what we can learn about Him, His heart for the people around Him, and the way He would have His followers live.

"TABLE TALK" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – Jesus, The Physician (Luke 5:27-32) |** It's tempting to alleviate the shame and guilt we feel from our sin by comparing ourselves to others. When we create a gradient of sin, we quickly fall into pride and self-righteousness, but Jesus has come to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous. We all have to be reminded that we can't truly repent and follow Jesus until we can admit we're all sinful and desperate for God's grace.
- **Session 2 – Jesus, The Friend of Sinners (Luke 7:36-50) |** Uninvited dinner guests are usually not a welcome sight, but Jesus uses the arrival of a woman widely known as a sinner to test the hearts of those around Him. Her deep-felt awareness of both her fatal sin and the all-encompassing grace of Jesus drove her to an extreme expression of love for her Messiah. In the same way, our love for God should increase the more we become aware of both our sin and the abundance of His grace.
- **Session 3 – Jesus, The Better Thing (Luke 10:38-42) |** We often equate busyness with godliness or measure our worth by how much we do. And in a culture with no shortage of distractions and tasks, we can easily fall into the trap of letting good things become main things. Martha let her "much serving" distract her from the better thing, Jesus, but in reality, we honor and please Jesus the most when we give Him our hearts.
- **Session 4 – Jesus, The Purifier (Luke 11:37-41) |** The Pharisees were obsessed with using outward expressions of purity to make everyone think they were righteous, but their hearts were far from it. Similarly, we can focus solely on our outward appearance while our hearts are filthy with hidden sin. Our hearts dictate our actions, so we have to purify them first. And the only way we can purify our hearts is by giving them to Jesus.

"TABLE TALK" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

**BACKGROUND AND
TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL
ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM
IMAGES**



**LOGO
TREATMENT**



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

Table Talk Sermon Series | Session 1: Jesus, The Physician

How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

A Prayer Before You Prepare | God, thank You for who You are and what You've done. I'm so thankful that I have the opportunity to stand in front of students and proclaim Your Word so that they might come to believe in Your Son. Your Word is truth, so I pray that You would reveal Your truth to them through me. As I tell my students about the things Jesus said and did around dinner tables during His time on Earth, I ask that they would hear more than mere words. Let them hear, see, and experience Your heart – for them and for the world. I pray that those who do not know You will come to have faith in You and that those who do know You will walk into deeper fellowship with You. May these sessions provoke my students to action, loving the world through the Spirit because of what Your Son has done for all of us. Finally, let my words be only from You, and let my preparation honor and glorify You so that I can make much of You in the way I communicate these sessions. I trust You for my students' lives, and I praise You for the work I know You will do. Amen.

Table Talk Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

Series Snapshot | *Table Talk* is a four-session sermon series that will focus on four conversations Jesus had while sharing meals with His disciples and others. This series will challenge your students to evaluate their heart posture toward things like repentance, love, busyness, and pride and consider how their lives can reflect the heart of Jesus at the table.

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Table Talk Series | Session 1

Large Group Teaching Summary | It’s tempting to alleviate the shame and guilt we feel from our sin by comparing ourselves to others. When we create a gradient of sin, we quickly fall into pride and self-righteousness, but Jesus has come to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous. We all have to be reminded that we can’t truly repent and follow Jesus until we can admit we’re all sinful and desperate for God’s grace.

Key Takeaway | We can’t truly repent until we admit we’re sinful and desperate for God’s grace.

Scripture Focus | Luke 5:27-32

What You May Need | *Optional Illustration:* Awkward Dinner Scene from Shrek 2 (<https://youtu.be/rmpFmJfEZxs>), *Optional Illustration:* Blind to a Need (Personal Story)

I. Introduction

A. **Optional Illustration: Awkward Dinner Scene**

1. **NOTE: The link for the video is provided above. It's about 3.5 minutes long, so feel free to cut it short at any point; also, beware of the ads at the beginning and be prepared to have skipped them before your teaching time begins. The goal for this video is to set the stage for how table talk can sometimes get fairly confrontational, tense, or awkward.**
- B. As we just saw in this video, conversations around the dinner table can sometimes get a little tense. I don't know if you have any awkward moments like this to share, but the more time you spend around a table with other people, the more likely you are to experience a difficult situation at some point. And this isn't just true for us today; it's been this way throughout all of history. There's just something about people gathering around a table to share a meal that creates a little bit of suspense and uneasiness.
- C. And that's kind of what this new series we're starting is about. We're calling this series *Table Talk* because we're going to look at four different stories centered around meals that Jesus shared with people during His time on Earth. Jesus used these times around a table to show us a lot about who He is, why He came, and who He wants us to be. Instead of rushing through meals like we so often do today, Jesus took advantage of having big groups of people in one place at one time to share His heart and teach them. So with that being said, let's take a seat around the table and begin our first session.

II. Tension

- A. Let me start by asking you a question. Who are you better than? Not at anything specific, just life in general. Who do you look at and say, "Well, at least I'm not as bad as them...?" Somebody just came to your mind, right? It can be really comforting to compare ourselves to people who we think are worse off than we are. It lets us escape, even if just for a second, from the conviction we feel over the sins we commit. But once we make this type of comparison a habit, it's really easy to make ourselves feel better or more righteous than everyone else around us. Like we've made it into some exclusive club because we're such good people or we follow the right rules, and there's only a small group of others who ever measure up to make it into our club.
- B. But when we have this mindset for long enough, it begins to impact the way we treat the people around us too. It evolves from simply thinking that we're not as bad as them to treating them like they're worse than us. We start drawing boundaries around who's worthy of love, who's good enough to interact with, or who's acceptable to associate with. We decide who's in and who's out based on our own qualifications, and those who are out might as well not exist. There's no way we would ever even come close to hanging out with them under any circumstances because of how bad, dirty, or unlovable they are or how much it would hurt our image if we were seen with them.
- C. This is exactly where we find ourselves in this session's passage. The Pharisees, a particular group of Jewish scholars who held themselves in high regard, are criticizing

Jesus and His disciples for eating with people they deem to be outcasts, too dirty to associate with. There's no way they would ever be seen interacting with *these* types of people because it would ruin their self-made image. And in doing so, they detach and elevate themselves into a higher, better, more righteous group of people. So let's turn to Luke 5 and read our passage for this session.

III. Scripture

A. Read LUKE 5:27-32

1. *"After this He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And He said to him, 'Follow me.' And leaving everything, he rose and followed Him. And Levi made Him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at His disciples, saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?' And Jesus answered them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.'"*

- B. We have two different scenes in this passage, but Jesus is communicating the same message in both of them. In our first scene, we see Jesus calling Levi, also known as Matthew, to be one of His disciples. Right off the bat, you may not think this is a big deal, but Luke gives us a crucial detail about who Levi is – he tells us that Levi is a tax collector. Tax collectors were Jewish men who willingly worked for the Roman government, which was oppressing the Jewish people, so they were hated and seen as traitors. They were considered outcasts, shamed by their families, and even kicked out of the synagogue. They literally couldn't go to the temple and worship God because the Jewish religious officials deemed them unworthy.
- C. So the fact that Jesus, a Jewish man with Jewish disciples, calls a tax collector to follow Him is totally unexpected and countercultural! Jesus is crossing boundaries that people have drawn to say that NO ONE IS TOO FAR GONE OR TOO UNFIT TO BE WELCOMED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD. The Jewish people have tightened the boundaries of God's people, but Jesus is declaring that His heart and purpose is to expand those boundaries and do away with all qualifications except for one – repentance. And Levi shows us exactly what that looks like through his response to Jesus' call. He immediately leaves everything behind, gets up, and follows Jesus. And his "everything" isn't small either; tax collectors were usually extremely rich because they would overtax the Jewish people in order to make a profit. So Levi is leaving a life of wealth and luxury to follow Jesus, but he has no hesitation. He shows us what repentance looks like by LEAVING EVERYTHING BEHIND, TURNING FROM HIS OLD WAYS, AND REORIENTING HIS ENTIRE LIFE AROUND JESUS' MISSION.
- D. Now, finally, we get to the meal. Levi hasn't just decided to follow Jesus wherever He goes; he even goes as far as throwing a feast for Jesus and inviting all the other local outcasts. As I've said already, if religious leaders wanted to maintain their reputation, they wouldn't associate with Levi or anyone like him. And the Pharisees know that Jesus is teaching about God and leading people to believe in God, so they have to admit that

He's righteous to some extent. That's why they're so confused and even offended when they see Jesus and His disciples eating with these people they call "tax collectors and sinners." They think righteous people just shouldn't do that. But they're failing to realize that JESUS' RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE VERY REASON HE DOES ASSOCIATE WITH SINFUL PEOPLE!

- E. But I want to make a quick side note on what the Pharisees say to Jesus' disciples. Did you notice that Luke says there was a large group of "tax collectors and *others*," but the Pharisees say "tax collectors and *sinners*?" The Pharisees think so highly of themselves that they've stopped seeing others as anything other than their sin, mistakes, and flaws. They've somehow gotten to the point where they no longer see hearts that are desperate for God; they've just labeled these people as the sin they commit and disqualified them from the grace of God. Have you ever been guilty of doing that? Labeling someone by the mistakes they've made, thinking they're too far gone, or cringing at the thought that they would ever come to your church? Whether intentionally or not, have you disqualified someone from God's grace because they don't live the way you think people should? Let's look to our passage to see what Jesus has to say about this.
- F. It seems kind of weird that Jesus would respond to this question by talking about people being sick and healthy. And even weirder that He would say there are some people who are righteous and some who are sinners...but is that what He's saying? We know that all people are sinners, so what's up with this? Well, Jesus is fully aware that the Pharisees think they're fully righteous as long as they obey God's law. For them, strict rule-following has replaced grace, mercy, and compassion. THEY'VE FORGOTTEN THAT THEY ARE JUST AS SINFUL AS THE PEOPLE THEY LABEL SINNERS. They're even disgusted at the thought. They're blind to their desperate need for forgiveness and grace because they think their self-righteous rule-following will earn them God's favor. So Jesus isn't saying that the Pharisees are actually righteous but that THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WILL EVER BE ABLE TO TRULY REPENT AND FOLLOW HIM ARE THOSE WHO CAN ADMIT THEY ARE SINFUL. Of course people who think they're righteous won't repent because they don't think they need it! Only people who know they're sick can be made well.
1. ***Optional Illustration: Blind to a Need***
 - a) ***NOTE: I tell a story of a guy who got sick but didn't think it was a big deal, so he didn't go to the doctor. However, things took a turn, and he tragically passed away. If he had acknowledged his need and gone to the doctor, he would've most likely lived. Feel free to use this story or a substitute from your personal life. The goal is to communicate that the cure only works for people who recognize their need for it.***
- G. Through calling Levi and responding to the Pharisees' criticisms, Jesus affirms that the people we think are outside the boundaries are the very ones He's been sent to. Ultimately, for the Pharisees, God is reaching outside of the box they've put Him in and done something they think is inappropriate. The question now is how will they respond to God being bigger, more gracious, and more powerful than they're comfortable with?

IV. Application

- A. There are probably two groups of people in this room: those who think they're inside the boundary but are unwilling to admit they're just as sinful as everyone else, and those who think they're outside the boundary and will never be allowed in. And I have the same question for both of you. How will you respond to God being bigger, more gracious, and more powerful than you thought?

- B. REALIZE YOUR DESPERATE NEED FOR JESUS
 - 1. The Pharisees were unwilling to admit they were just as sinful as everyone else. They thought that they were better than others because they lived a more "righteous" lifestyle, but righteous living doesn't earn you forgiveness. There's no amount of good works you could do or bad deeds you could stay away from that will make you right with God. The only way that can happen is through Jesus. The way to true repentance and forgiveness has to begin with the confession that we are all desperate for grace every day.

- C. CHOOSE TO REPENT
 - 1. The Pharisees thought they would be accepted by God solely on the basis that they followed the Law, but Jesus teaches us that the only way to God is through repentance. And Levi gives us a perfect example of it. He left everything behind no matter the cost, turned from his old way of life, and committed to following Jesus. That's what repentance is – turning from your sinful habits, leaving behind everything that doesn't help you follow Jesus, and then putting your faith in Him and following Him wholeheartedly.

- D. REALIZE JESUS GIVES AN OPEN INVITATION
 - 1. Levi thought there was no way he'd ever be welcomed back into the family of God. So when Jesus, the Messiah, calls Levi to follow Him and then shares a meal with him, his eyes are opened to a whole new reality. He's exposed to the truth that God's heart is for all people to be welcomed into His family. This is what Jesus came to show us – that God desires to be in a relationship with all of us.
 - 2. Once our eyes are opened to this radical truth, we should be driven to welcome others into that invitation. The first thing Levi did after Jesus told him to follow was invited all of his other outcast friends so that they could also receive the invitation that Jesus had for them. Would those friends still have to make the personal choice to repent? To leave everything behind and follow Jesus? Yes, just like everyone today still has to do. But when we experience the unconditional love of Jesus, we should invite everyone in regardless of what we think their response might be.

V. Gospel

- A. So how is all of this true? Why aren't we able to get right with God on our own? And what is it about Jesus that makes it possible? Great questions!

- B. It all starts in the beginning when God created the whole world and everything in it in perfect relationship with Himself. But Adam and Eve, the first two humans, sinned against God. They disobeyed God's commands and His will for their lives. And because

all sin is equally intolerable to God, all sin gets the same punishment and warrants the same penalty. So Adam and Eve's relationship with God was eternally broken. They became spiritually dead. And we've all received that sinful nature, and we sin every day. We do things against God's Word and will for our lives, like lying, cheating, being jealous, lashing out at people in anger, and so much more. So we're spiritually dead and separated from God too. We all owe Him a perfectly obedient life because that's what we were created to do, but we can never make that payment.

- C. But thankfully, God didn't want to leave us separated from Him. Despite our rebellion against Him, He wanted to have a relationship with us again. But that required someone to pay that debt of a perfectly obedient life, and since all humanity was filled with sin, we couldn't do it for ourselves. So God came down from Heaven to do it for us. Jesus Christ, God the Son, came and lived the perfectly obedient life that we were meant to live. He had full rights to life with God, but He willingly gave up His life and died on the cross to pay our debt for us. But the best part is that three days later, He rose back to life, having defeated sin and death forever, and went back to Heaven, where He still is now!
- D. Because our debt is paid, we can freely come before God and have forgiveness of all our sins – past, present, and future. All we have to do is repent of (turn away from/ask forgiveness for) our sins and believe that Jesus really is God, that He really came down from Heaven and lived a sinless life, that He really died on the cross, that He really rose from the grave, and that He's the Savior we desperately need. When we submit our lives to Him in this way, we're granted forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and a relationship with God. He approaches us with incredible grace and mercy; He sees our shortcomings and sins, yet He still chooses to offer us forgiveness. When we repent of our sins, turn away from them, and give our lives to Jesus by committing to follow Him, God doesn't see our sinfulness anymore. He sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus!
- E. This is why Jesus says that He is a physician, a doctor. The Pharisees would send sick people away in fear of catching whatever they had, but Jesus, the Great Physician, gets down in the dirt with sinners. He doesn't stay away. When we repent and follow Him, He embraces our sinful hearts and not only remains righteous Himself but replaces our sinfulness with His righteousness. What a gift!

VI. Conclusion

- A. It's really easy to try and alleviate the shame and guilt we feel about our own lives by comparing ourselves to others we think sin in worse ways than us. It can even give us a sense of pride to think that Jesus has to work harder to save others and that we're making it easy on Him by living "better" lives. But until we realize that literally every salvation is a miracle of grace, no matter who you are, where you come from, or how blamelessly you think you live, we're missing the point. Every single one of us is equally guilty for sending Jesus to the cross; we were all outside the boundary. But the good news is that God loves every single one of us enough to cross that boundary and welcome us into His family forever.
- B. Let's pray.

Table Talk Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: Jesus, The Physician

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Key Takeaway | We can't truly repent until we admit we're sinful and desperate for God's grace.

Scripture Focus | Luke 5:27-32

Table Talk | Session 1 Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. If you had to eat one thing for every meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 5:27-32. What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. Why do you think comparing our mistakes to other people's makes us feel better? What do you think we're trying to avoid when we do that? Why do we try to avoid that?
3. What kind of people do you struggle with drawing boundaries around? What about them makes you feel like they're "out" and you're "in?" Why?
4. Does it make you uncomfortable that no one is ever too far gone to be welcomed into God's family? Why or why not? Have you ever thought that you were too far gone? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think repentance is necessary for truly following Jesus? If you were in Levi's shoes, what would've held you back? Why do you think that thing would've held you back? Why do you think being able to admit that you're sinful is necessary to really repent?
6. How hard is it to believe that you're just as sinful and desperate for Jesus as everyone who has ever existed – even on days you think you don't sin that much? Do you think that's fair? Why or why not? How does this change the way you think about sin and repentance?
7. In what ways do you think you put God in a box or make Him smaller than He really is? Why do you think you struggle with that?