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# GOD'S SUPPER TABLE

EXODUS 25:23-30



LIVING THE BIBLE

40 percent of American families eat dinner together only three or fewer times a week. 10 percent never eat dinner together at all. Even when families do sit down together, it's not for long. Sixty years ago, the average dinner time was 90 minutes. Today it's less than 12 minutes. The average American eats one in five meals in the car, and the average family now spends nearly as much on fast food as they do on groceries.

We're losing out on many blessings with our fast-food, solo-eating habits. Kids and teens who share family dinners three or more times a week, are less likely to be overweight, are more likely to eat healthy food, do better in school, are less likely to engage in risky behavior, and have better relationships with their parents.

In *The Atlantic*, a journalist wrote: "The dinner table can act as a unifier, a place of community. Sharing a meal is an excuse to catch up and talk, one of the few times where people are happy to put aside their work and take time out of their day. After all, it is rare that we Americans grant ourselves pleasure over productivity."

Given all this, it's not surprising that God's mobile home, the Tabernacle, had a supper table in it. It was God's way of saying, I want to spend time with you. I want to get to know you and I want you to get to know me. I want us to prioritize pleasure over productivity.

## LEARNING

### GOD WANTS RICH FELLOWSHIP (23-29)

The table was inside the Holy place room. It was gold-plated, had a gold rim all around it, and was set out with gold plates, dishes and utensils. Beautiful curtains covered the walls, embroidered with brightly colored cherubim. Opposite the table was a large golden lamp casting a soft light upon the scene, and just off to one side was an incense-burning altar which filled the room with fragrance. This isn't McDonalds! It's a rich, beautiful, and inviting setting for a meal. Who wouldn't want to eat there?

GOD WANTS GOLD-STANDARD FELLOWSHIP,  
NOT TO-GO FELLOWSHIP.

Does God really want me at his table?

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## GOD WANTS PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP (30)

What's on this supper table? There were twelve loaves of unleavened bread set out in two columns of six. The table was set for all the twelve tribes of Israel. God was saying, "I want fellowship with all the Israelites."

The bread was renewed every week by the priests. As Israel's representatives, they came in to the holy place, ate the bread on the table, and replaced it with twelve freshly baked loaves. The bread was called **the bread of the Presence** (30), messaging that God wanted the twelve tribes to live in his presence. Even when Israel marched, the table was to remain set with the bread as it was carried. Israel was reminded that they were before God and with God continually.

GOD WANTS A FELLOWSHIP FOOD RELATIONSHIP  
NOT A FAST FOOD RELATIONSHIP

LOVING

It's no accident that Jesus said that he was the the bread of life, the bread of God which came down from heaven and gave life to the world (Jn.6:32-35).

In the Old Testament only the priests could eat as Israel's representatives, but now all of God's people are a royal priesthood (1 Pet.2:9) and all may eat with Christ by eating of Christ (Jn.6:53-58). Christ is our supper-table where we can enjoy rich and personal fellowship with God. When we sit at God's table we're saying, I prioritize pleasure over productivity.

LIVING

Prioritize pleasure over productivity by using mealtimes to fellowship with one another and with God.

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