

RED ROCKS CHURCH

GROUP GUIDE

THE LAST BREAKFAST | MESSAGE BY CHAD BRUEGMAN

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

If you were to describe the perfect breakfast, what essential menu items would need to be there and why?

SHARE

There is something spiritually significant about the morning. As the sun breaks the horizon, we remember that God is faithful, and regardless of the darkness the night before, rejoicing can come and in the morning, new mercies. So what is one of the best things we can do in the morning? Of course, taking time to spend reading the word of God and taking time to pray, but what else is important? Eating breakfast. Most studies would tend to agree that one of the most important meals of the day is a healthy breakfast.

When we remember Jesus and meals, we tend to think about the most dramatic of all of the meals, and that was what we call “The Last Supper.” Historically, painters and poets have focused on the massive implications of the last supper. We remember what Jesus did for each of us every time we take communion. We can tend to romanticize the last supper, when in reality, it was a difficult night where the disciples didn’t understand what Jesus was saying. There was arguing about who would be greater. Jesus let Peter know that he would deny him. In fact, the last supper was a heavy moment that really was pointing to the fact that the human heart desperately needs a savior. Jesus knew exactly what was about to happen, as he was preparing to face the cross. His disciples did not understand.

Rarely do we talk about the last breakfast.

Let’s start by reading John 21:1-14

After all the time the disciples spent with Jesus, how do you think they might have been feeling with Jesus gone?

Has there been a time when you felt like you were left alone by God or felt that God seemed to be distant, so you just went back to what you used to do?

Why would Jesus ask a question he already knows the answer to?

GROW

It is one thing to say that we love Jesus, but truly a real test of that love to be willing to serve God with your entire life. When we look at the events of the last supper, we see that it was an indictment on Peter. Jesus let Peter know that he would deny him. Peter had not yet realized just how desperate his heart was for the cross of Christ, but would soon enough.

When we look at the last breakfast, however, we see no indictments; there is no storm on the sea ... just Jesus standing on the shore with breakfast made. The work of the cross is complete; this is a purely redemptive moment for Peter. Jesus reinstates Peter, eye to eye, in what might be an emotional moment for Peter. Many scholars point to the fact that one major thing Jesus was concerned with was that Peter was able to truly “love.” Love is the most important qualification for serving God -- receiving God’s love and from what we receive; we give away to others. It must always be in that order. It is interesting to note in the NIV Study Bible that Jesus uses different words for love in his questioning:

“Agape” love which is self-sacrificing
“Phileo” love which is a sign of affection, affinity or brotherly love.

Read John 21:14-17

In Gangel’s commentary of John we read about the interaction with Jesus and Peter:

Embarrassing as it must have been at the time, this tender exchange restored Peter to leadership—a role he exercised early in Acts. Throughout the history of the church, thousands have been scattered on the roadside of good intentions for ministry; they traded God’s call for something else—like fishing. Even though this night of fishing may have been just a casual outing with the guys, as a professional fisherman Peter could have entertained thoughts of going back to his former work. Being with Jesus had been great, and it must have felt wonderful to have him alive again. But who knows what might be next? A fellow has to make a living.

For the next nine verses, John brought his Gospel to a close with the clear enunciation of Peter’s call to ministry. Jesus asked Peter almost the same question three times. This could reflect the three denials, but whether it did or not, the command was similar each time: Feed my lambs ... Take care of my sheep ... Feed my sheep. A quick glance at 1 Peter lets us know the disciple never forgot this moment.

“Agape” love is a self-sacrificing love. Why does true love sacrifice?

“Phileo” love is a friendship love. Why does deep friendship need to exist in true love?

The grave is empty and the work of Christ on the cross has been finished once and for all. As believers, why is it so crucial for us to have lives of victory?

Why is being a loving shepherd to lambs and sheep so important to Jesus?

MOVE

As we approach Easter together, let's take time to reflect on the last supper and the last breakfast. It is between those meals that we see Jesus betrayed, denied, left alone, beaten, laughed at, mocked, spit on and crucified. It was in the darkest moment, when all seemed lost ... that Jesus walked out of that grave. We celebrate a risen Christ. Jesus is alive and well. All of us can relate to Peter's denial and reinstatement, if we are followers of Christ. We have all at times denied Jesus or didn't do the right thing when it was in our power to do it.

When we think of that redemptive encounter on the beach with Jesus, let us remember that the work is finished and the redeemer stands ready to reinstate, to redeem, and to offer a true love and friendship regardless of how we might feel about our mistakes.

How does loving Jesus translate to loving others?

What stands in your way of being a loving shepherd to other people? (shame, doubt, pride, unworthiness, etc.)

Is there someone you could reach out to and invite to come and hear the gospel message this Easter?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

TO GO

1 Chronicles 16:11

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!