

November 14, 2021

# A Meal of Reconciliation

## 1 Samuel 25:2-39

I'm not sure if it's like this for you, but for me, Christianity has always been full of food. So many of Jesus' excursions as recorded in the Gospels involved sitting down to share meals with people. He ate with tax collectors, disciples, bickering sisters (Mary and Martha), and crowds of thousands. The Old Testament also talks a lot about food, where and when and how to prepare it. When I was growing up, eating was a big part of what we did together as a church family: picnics, potlucks, feasts, VBS snacks. Food has a way of bringing people together like nothing else can.

Food given and shared provides a sense of community and fullness that makes people feel connected. The student book author writes, "The sharing of food was a central aspect of biblical culture. Providing nourishment celebrated God's provision and care. It also affirmed and supported the lives of others, regardless of who they were."<sup>1</sup>

On the flip side, hunger and denial can make people do terrible things. In my mind all week, this lesson's subtitle was "David Gets Hangry" ("hangry": a combination of hungry and angry). When he sought food for his people and was denied, David went into a murderous rage. If Abigail hadn't intervened, awful things would've happened. It was her generosity that saved the day.

As we get closer to Thanksgiving and Christmas parties, food is likely on the brain. Remember that shared meals can provide an environment for so much positivity. Maybe it's time to extend forgiveness, charity, reconciliation, and love as well as spoons and forks this holiday season.

1. How have shared tables and meals been part of your faith?
2. Think of those who might be physically and spiritually "hangry." How can you minister to them?
3. How can you extend love and communion through food this holiday season?

Rachel Mullen lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and daughter. She blogs at [www.travelwithgrands.blogspot.com](http://www.travelwithgrands.blogspot.com) and is mom to the world's worst behaved dachshund.

<sup>1</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2021, by Greg Weeks (Cokesbury, 2021); page 113.