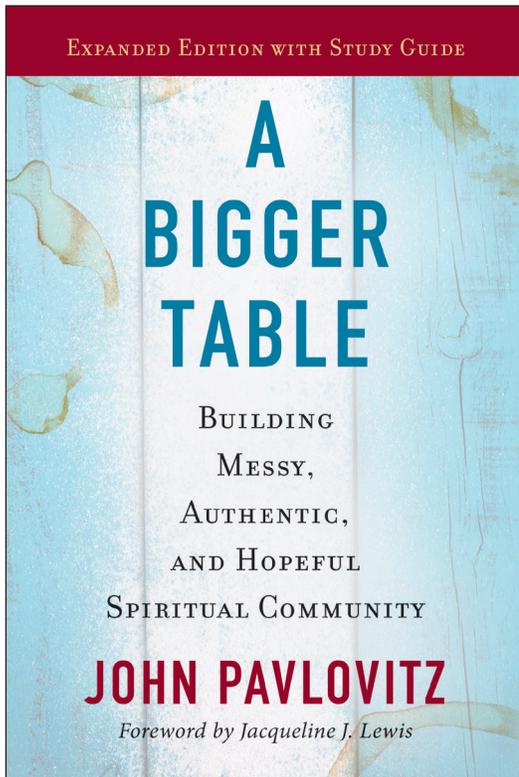


Book Club Questions for John Pavlovitz's *A Bigger Table, Expanded Edition with Study Guide*



What does the table metaphor mean to you? Why is it apt for discussing the way we live together in society and treat one another on both macro and micro levels?

What have been your best and worst experiences with church? What gives you a feeling of freedom or lightness in your faith?

What is wrong with tolerance? How does it get confused with acceptance or inclusion? Toward whom do you or your church practice mere tolerance? How can you grow toward full acceptance?

How can your church show newcomers that they are free to be their authentic selves in your community? Does your church expect its pastors to be on their best behavior or to share the messier parts of themselves? What impact do you think this has on people?

Read the author's story about "Sign Guy" on pages 93–94.

How do marginalized people and privileged people experience a diverse gathering differently? What can we do to ensure no one is harmed in the quest for diversity?

Think of a time you got to know someone beyond the label you had initially put on them. What did it take to think beyond the box you'd put them in and learn their story? What did you discover?

What challenges and barriers do you think other religions face to building the bigger table? Which would you suppose are the same as those Christians face and which are distinct to other faiths?

What scares you most about practicing the faith of the bigger table? What do you think God would say in response? What would help rid you of the fear of getting it wrong?

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