

# A Bigger Table

By John Pavlovitz

Questions for April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting

In addition to the questions provided in the discussion guide at the back of the book, please consider the following:

1. Reflect on Still Waters Church as a whole, i.e., thinking about ministry within and outside of the church walls.
  - a. In what ways has Still Waters changed in the past five years?
  - b. How was change introduced?
  - c. Does the change represent movement to a “bigger table?” If yes, in what ways in the table enlarging?
  - d. We used to be reminded repeatedly that we are “the church of the dialogue.” Is this description currently accurate?
  
2. Pavlovitz states: “This is how deconstruction begins: with one nagging question, with one uneasy feeling, with a single verse, with a solitary fear.” Reflect on a time when you experienced a period of doubt, a deconstruction threatening your faith.
  - a. What triggered this deconstruction?
  - b. What spiritual growth came out of this period of doubt?
  
3. How would you feel if your pastor admitted to be struggling with doubt?
  
4. On page 46 Pavlovitz describes the Pharisees struggle as follows: “ It wasn’t a lack of faith or lack of love for God, but a resistance to the idea that God could speak in new ways, could come packaged differently than they expected, and could exist outside of the box they build for God.”
  - a. What sources have contributed to the “box” that you have built for God?
  - b. What sources of information would you view as authoritative, prompting you to consider a change in the box you have built for God?