



Groups

Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions beginning at the bottom of page 2.

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE
for the Sermon given on June 5, 2022
"You're Invited" – Luke 14:15-24



We are in Week 4 of our new spring series, "The Good and Beautiful Life." In the coming weeks, we will be examining five missional practices that Jesus modeled for us and that the early church adopted as well. We'll be using the acrostic BLESS – which represents "Begin in Prayer," "Listen with Care," "Eat with Others," "Serve in Humility," and "Share Your Story."

Today we focus on the missional practice of "Eating with Others" and will be looking Jesus' parable of the Great Banquet from Luke 14:12-24.

Group Discussion Questions

Q – Let's begin by discussing two great points Pastor Ruthie made early when she said "Eating with others deepens relationships." What relationships in your life have deepened specifically over eating meals together?

The second point for discussion was "Eating with others makes memories." Let's process aloud the questions Ruthie asked the congregation, "

- Who has made you feel welcome at their table?
- Who were the last people you invited into your home, or with whom did you last eat out at a restaurant?
- What are, or were, some of your traditions at the family dinner table?
- What topics of conversation do you recall or funny things that happened?"

****We do not have to spend equal time on each one, feel free to answer any that connected with you.**

Q – Let's spend a few moments reading the Parable of the Great Banquet and appreciating what Jesus is truly saying. First, could you imagine saying to the hosts of a dinner party that they should have invited different people? (That's what Jesus did in verse 12).

Jesus is making a Kingdom-focused point in this parable. Consistent with Jesus' teaching style, he points out the ordinary practice of inviting family, friends, and the desirable people of one's social circle. What is the issue Jesus is raising here? And what is a takeaway you see that Jesus is making by the end of the parable?

(Among the takeaways is that the Kingdom of God is not only for everyone, including and perhaps, especially for those that are not at the top of your guest list for your next dinner party. As always, Jesus' parables invite us to look at life differently and to seek God's Kingdom perspective of it all).

Q – Describe a time when you felt out of a place in a dinner setting (or a social occasion). What did you do to get comfortable, who did you pursue conversation with and what did you learn from it? In revisiting the moment, was there any Kingdom-perspective you could have brought to it? (For instance, this parable might say don't just make conversation with those that are similar to you at a dinner party, but perhaps, pursue interactions with those that might not come as naturally to you. It's important to note that this is not simply about making conversation but more about embodying the love of God and living out the way of Jesus in our everyday lives).

Q – Let's spend a few moments in reflection and quietly consider who are those that we need to invite over for dinner or to go out to a restaurant with? Second, imagine your small group throws a summer barbecue, who is invited?

How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.