

Luke- “You’re Invited”
Luke 14: 16-24

Instructions:

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers “Go Deeper” in applying the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare to engage in a discussion of the questions below, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to leeroad.com, click on media, and listen to the sermon listed above.

1. Pastor Todd noted that everyone likes getting invited to celebrations such as Birthday Parties, Weddings, and Graduation Celebrations. It makes us feel good and feel wanted when we get invited. Has there ever been a time in your life when you did not get invited? Did you feel left out? Did you feel overlooked? How did you feel?
2. This is the Parable of the Great Supper or Great Banquet. Who is the “Certain Man?” Who are the many? Who are the people who made excuses? Although not mentioned in the Sermon, do you think Jesus aimed this parable at the Jewish Religious Leaders because they assumed they would be sitting at the Banquet Table in the Kingdom?
3. Doesn’t it feel great to know that Jesus has invited every one of us to join Him in His Kingdom? Pastor Todd noted, “We have been invited. God wants us in His Kingdom. God wants us in a relationship with Him.” Did you know that you are Special? God thinks you are very special? Read the following Scriptures and Discuss what they mean about your specialness and uniqueness to God.
 - A. Genesis 1: 26-28
 - B. Psalm 139: 13-16
 - C. Ephesians 2:10 (Read this from the NLT-New Living Translation...Wow!)
4. Never ever forget that when you look in a mirror and feel down, discouraged, or worthless, that is just the Devil telling you his lies. Do you ever have a tendency to feel unloved or worthless? A lot of people feel this way. God thinks you are special, cool, wonderful, and He wants you in His kingdom. Will you choose to believe what God says about you rather than what the Devil says about you?
5. Pastor Todd believes that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people. When the gospel is preached or shared, people have to make a conscious decision to receive the Lord or reject the Lord. This decision then impacts where they spend eternity. Read the following Scriptures and discuss what they say about this matter:
 - A. John 3:16
 - B. Romans 10: 9-13 (especially v. 13)

6. Have you consciously, verbally, and openly received Jesus Christ and expressed your faith in Him? Take a moment right now in your group and invite one or two believers to share the testimony of how and when they came to know Jesus as their Savior? If you have not received Jesus, would you consider doing it right now?
7. In the Parable of the Great Supper, those who were invited made excuses regarding why they could no longer attend the banquet. Read Luke 14: 18-20 and name the excuses that were given. Do any of these excuses truly measure up? Are they legitimate? Does God accept our excuses for not entering His Kingdom or Serving Him?
8. Pastor Todd noted that the phrase “make excuses” comes from a Greek word that means to “beg off or ask to be excused.” It is motivated by self interest. Literally, it means to “put one’s own self-interest ahead of God’s interests.” Have you been guilty of putting your own interests, desires, wants, and pursuits ahead of the Lord? What excuses have you been using to keep you from being all God wants you to be?
9. How did the Master of the House respond to all the excuses? See Verse 21. Is God a God of Love or a God of Wrath? When is His love shown? When is His wrath shown? What will ultimately happen to people who do not accept His invitation to go to the Heavenly Banquet? Read Matthew 7:21-23. Does this verse reveal God’s love or His wrath?
10. When none of the invited guest came to the Great Supper or Great Banquet, the Master of the House told his servant to go invite the lame, the poor, the maimed, and the blind. He also told him to go into the highways and hedges and “compel” them to come in so that His house may be filled. This means the Kingdom of God is for everyone. Do you sometimes struggle with showing partiality to people who look like you and talk like you? Do you ever look down on someone because of their skin color, language, or ethnic background? Do you make unkind comments or jokes about people who are different than you? Don’t forget, they are all special people too.
11. Pastor Todd noted that “Compel them to come in” literally means “to beg, plead, or heavily persuade.” Do you have a friend or family member who doesn’t know Jesus? Would you be willing to plead with them to consider the truth of Christ? Take time right now to pray for any friends or family members who are not saved.