

Pastor Dave Patterson The Invitation

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Luke 14:15-24]

Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!"

¹⁶ Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. ¹⁷ When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' ¹⁸ But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.' ¹⁹ Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.' ²⁰ Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' ²¹ "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' ²² After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' ²³ So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. ²⁴ For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'"

1. There is an urgency with the invitation

2. Only the master's banquet provides what people really need

[Luke 7:22]

Then he told John's disciples, "Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor."

3. Consider the power of an invitation

Pray focused / targeted prayers

Look for the open door

Be the invitation

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when you felt like you were in the "fog" of life. How did you get out of the fog?
2. What lame excuses have you heard, or used, about not attending a church service?
3. What are some "good" things in life that can interfere with the "God" things He has for our life?
4. How can you compel those you know to come to a church service (the table)?
5. Why is the invitation to come to the table, to those far from God, so urgent?
6. Why is your invitation so powerful?
7. Share 3 names, of people you know, who need to be at the table.
8. Spend some time as a group praying for them as follows:
 - Pray focused / targeted prayers for those you know.
 - Ask God to open the door for you to have the conversation.

- Ask God to give you the boldness to "Be the Invitation"