

# groups.

— Notes | April 20, 2025

## There's a Place at the Table for You

---

An invitation is more than just a pretty piece of paper in a fancy envelope. It says: "You are special, and I've saved a seat just for you." But for some who don't grasp the significance, an invitation might appear as an inconvenience or worse, and for those who feel like a lost cause, being rejected is a common fear. Jesus shared a parable in Luke of an invitation to a banquet. This parable is a picture of the Kingdom Jesus gave His life to build. A Kingdom open to anyone who will accept His invitation of salvation.

### Key Scripture | Luke 14:16-23

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'"

### Related Scriptures

— John 5:18, Luke 23:32-33,39-43, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 5:8, Luke 18:16-20, Luke 24:1-6, Romans 10:9, Psalm 23

### Icebreakers:

— Q: What is the most unique party theme you have planned or attended?

## Key Thoughts and Reflections: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. An invitation has been extended.

Q: Share a time when you received an invitation that made you feel special.

Q: In our key scripture, there were three groups of people. Why did the first group reject the invitation?

Q: What was significant about the invitation extended to the second and third group?

### II. The Invitation to the Table had to be paid for.

Q: The Owner of the house was a picture of God throwing a party—a big feast. What is Jesus inviting us into?

Q: The owner desired his house to be full, how does this reveal God's heart for His House?

Q: What cost was involved in God opening a seat for each person invited?

### III. The Greatest Invitation welcomes all—even those who believe they are a lost cause.

Q: Read Luke 23:39-42. The two men crucified next to Jesus were both guilty and seemingly hopeless. Yet, they had very different responses to Jesus. Share the potential beliefs that shaped their individual responses.

Q: Which man did Jesus respond to? Why?

Q: How does Romans 10:9 tell us to respond to Jesus' open invitation to His table?

## Get Practical \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' invitation is for all. This week, we encourage you to sit afresh in the invitation of Christ. Whether you have received His invitation or are considering it, remember that a seat awaits with your name on it. Ask the Lord to reveal any place in your heart that may resist His invitation and lay this down at His feet. We invite you to start each day by reading Psalm 23 and consider that God is preparing a seat for you even now. If you need prayer, reach out to your small group leader or text prayer to 37748 so we can pray with you.