



## Small Group Questions

Message: April 28, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Bob

Series: *Stories With Jesus*

Topic: "Who's Coming To Dinner?"

Text: Luke 14:12-24

1. **Opening Discussion:** If you could design the best party every ... what would it look like? What elements would you include? Notice differences in the group.
2. Think about the question: who would be on your guest list? If you were having a wedding or throwing a party – what types of people would you invite? Explain.
3. **Read Luke 12:1-24.** While we focused on the parable in vv. 12-24, the first 24 verses are a unit. What themes and principals do you notice through this section? Do they connect with the Parable of the Great Banquet?
4. What is a Parable? Why do you think Jesus uses them so often? Take some time to discuss how parables could be useful in the narrative culture we currently live in.
5. What do you think Jesus meant by inviting the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind to the great banquet? How does this challenge our understanding of inclusion and hospitality?
6. In the parable, the invited guests made excuses not to attend the banquet. What are some common excuses people make for not responding to God's invitation to join His kingdom?
7. How does the host's response to the excuses challenge our perceptions of grace and acceptance?
8. Read this quote from the book, *The Great De-Churching*: "**About 40 million adults in America today used to go to church but no longer do, which accounts for around 16 percent of our adult population [...] More people have left the church in the last twenty-five years than all the new people who became Christians from the First Great Awakening, Second Great Awakening, and Billy Graham crusades combined.**" Discuss this as a group. What are the reasons? What does the parable teach us about this reality and our role?
9. Reflecting on your own life, how have you responded to God's invitation to be part of His kingdom? Have there been times when you've made excuses, or times when you've accepted the invitation wholeheartedly?
10. The host eventually sends his servants out to invite anyone they can find, regardless of their status. What does this teach us about God's kingdom and the nature of evangelism?

11. How can we, as a church community, emulate the generosity of the host in this parable? What practical steps can we take to reach out to those who might not typically feel welcome in church?
12. Close by reflecting on vv. 22-23. Notice the phrase, "**there is still room.**" Close in prayer and ask God to show how he is calling you to bring more people into his kingdom banquet.