

# Small Group Meeting on The Outsider Welcomed In

## Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

## Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

### **Luke 14:1-14**

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

*Shockers* – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

*Blockers* – something from the text that raises questions for you.

### **Setting the scene:**

- When it comes to eating and meals and food, the Bible speaks of those things over a thousand times. Just the word “feast” appears over 180 times in the Bible
- Jesus really seems to have intended his hearers to take literally his radical suggestion about who to invite to dinner parties. Social conditions have changed and we no longer live in small villages where everyone knows everyone’s business.
- The word “hospitality” in the Bible literally means to welcome the stranger.

- When we see Jesus having meals regularly with people, we have to see that it was an important practice of announcing the arrival of Gods Kingdom and what that meant when he had meals with those individuals.

## Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. Welcoming the stranger and loving the neighbour is central to a Biblical imagination of God's work in the world.

Note all the times Jesus is welcomed to someone's table and hospitality is practiced. Note the following texts:

- John 2: 1-11 The Wedding at Cana of Galilee
- Luke 19: 1-10 Zaccheus
- Luke 10:38-42 Martha and hospitality

As you reflect on these texts notice how often there is a role reversal where the host becomes the guest and guests become hosts.

Q2. Share together a brief summary of practicing hospitality. What was the most important part of this experience for you?

Q3. What are some obstacles to practicing true hospitality?

Q4. Name a person who you could show hospitality to who is outside your friendship group.

## Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by “walking the talk”. What are you going to be doing this week that will help you seal the faith you have? It may be a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

## Some new challenge ideas

**Plan to invite one of the people you have named to lunch/supper or some other meal within the next two weeks.**

- How will you invite them?
- What will be involved in welcoming?
- What might some ways of creating good listening conversations? Are there ways that some in the group might do this together (no more than 2-3)?

## Group Prayer

As a group, pray for one another this week as you explore a deeper life with God through prayer. Pray that your times of prayer and your attempt to walk in the light of God’s ways will increase and become more habitual throughout each day.