



Invitations to Dinner with Jesus

video course by Bishop Joe



Session Four: Invitation to God's eternal banquet

Bible Study Leaders Guide

Welcome and Prayer

5 min

Welcome everyone and invite a moment of stillness.

Opening Prayer (or adapt as needed):

Lord Jesus, as we gather together to reflect on your word, help us to listen with open hearts and humble minds. Teach us to recognise your invitation and respond to you in faith and joy. Amen.

Watch the Video

10 min

Play Bishop Joe's 10-minute video (or read aloud the transcript if video isn't available).

Initial Reflections

5 min

- What part of Jesus' story stood out to you most or surprised you?
- How did the context of Jesus being watched at a Pharisee's dinner shape your understanding of the parable?

Scripture Reading

5 min

Read Luke 14:15-23 aloud

Discussion Questions

25 min

- Why do you think Jesus told this story in response to the guest's comment, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God"?
- How does the host respond to being rejected, and what does that tell us about the nature of God's invitation?
- Bishop Joe describes the story as a critique of entitlement. Where do you see entitlement or self-importance in the story — and perhaps in ourselves?
- What does it mean that the host invites the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame — and then goes even further to compel others to come?
- How does this story challenge our assumptions about who belongs at God's table?

Prayer Response

5-15 min

Take some time to respond in prayer. Below are a few different ways you might invite your group to respond in prayer.

Daily Prayer

Pray together the appropriate daily office which can be found at <https://daily.commonworship.com> or on the Fruitful App.

Pray for 5

Spend some time identifying and then praying for five people to respond to Jesus' invitation to come to know the amazing, life-transforming joy of knowing Him. Check out [Thy Kingdom Come](#) for more information. Creative ideas could be:

- Using a band, tie 5 knots, each one representing one of your 5.
- Write their names down on a piece of paper and doodle pray for them.

Prayers for the least of those

Spend some time praying for the “the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame” of our society - those parts of our communities who are overlooked. Pray for not only their physical and emotional needs, but also their spiritual needs as well.

Shared Table of Hospitality

Set up a table with simple, shared food — bread, fruit, cheese, olives, or pastries — and invite everyone to sit and eat together after the reflection, thanking and celebrating God's invitation.

Symbolic Feast table

Create a visual feast using symbolic items:

- Place empty plates with words like ‘welcome, grace, joy, healing’ written on them
- Add candles, flowers or other decorations to make it beautiful
- Invite people to sit around the table reflecting and praying, imagining themselves at Jesus' banquet.