

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"WE WERE MADE FOR THE TABLE" | LUKE 14: 1-24 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What kind of food would you serve at a banquet if you were the host? Why?

"Addressing the Pharisees" (Luke 14: 1-6)

Jesus heals on the Sabbath in front of legalist Pharisees who condemned work on the Sabbath, showing that loving your neighbor is more important than strict religious rules. **What are ways people today use religion to avoid helping others?**

"Addressing the Guests" (Luke 14: 7-11)

Jesus points out at the feast that it is better to be humble and choose less important spots than to be proud and fight for the places of honor. **What are the "places of honor" in our culture today that people fight over?**

"Addressing the Host" (Luke 14: 12-14)

Jesus comments to the host that they invited people to the feast who would pay them back, which means they are serving themselves. **How can Jesus followers today seek to build relationships with people who won't help their work or agenda?**

"Addressing A Fellow Guest" (Luke 14: 15-24)

Jesus tells a parable about how a wealthy man insisted on having guests who were poor and sick after being rejected by the strong and wealthy. **What does that show about God? What does that mean for us?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus points out that the Pharisees and religious leaders have created a culture that misses God's heart: they choose tradition over mercy, self-promotion over humility, reciprocal favors over hospitality, personal goals over attending God's feast. These all point to them serving themselves, not God. **What are ways your lifestyle shows a focus on yourself? What are ways you can seek to serve others and God this week?**

We Were Made For The Table

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Lar: Harvest. Mnth Giv. Sun Prayer. REAL. Thanksgiving.
- B. Slide7 Baby Dedication: (3rd) William Michael Cannon. Mike & Rose. Milla/June.
1. I would like to highlight, you guys both see **adoption** & **orphan care** as an **equal gift** as having *a biological child*. That you didn't **adopt 1st** because you couldn't have children, **but rather** that **adoption** was placed on each of your hearts **prior to** having *a biological child*. Communicating to Milla & June, they weren't a 2nd option for growing your family. [Nat Adoption Month]

II. Slide8 Intro: We Were Made For The Table

- A. We were made for the table! Have you ever been on a food tour in a certain city or country? We continue on Luke's food tour:
1. Ch.5, Jesus told Levi to follow him, and Levi invited Him to **a great feast**.
 2. Ch.7, Jesus was invited to a Pharisees house, and they were **eating**, and then came in a sinful woman. This whole scene came right after it said, *the son of man came eating and drinking*.
 3. Ch.15 (key ch), starts with "*this man receive sinners and eats with them.*"
 4. Ch.19, Zacchaeus invites Jesus over for **lunch**.
 5. Ch.22, **Last supper**.
 6. Ch.24, Emmaus rd, ended w/**eating** with the 2 disciples.
 - a) **Here** in Lk.14:1-24 *this whole scene happens over a dinner* (1).
- B. If I asked, what has been some of *your favorite meals*, hopefully you remember more than just the food served, **but** also **the occasions** (Thanksgiving? 1st date?). **It probably wasn't when you were by yourself, late at night, driving thru Taco Bell.**
1. Usually what stands out in our memory is not just **the food**, **but family, friends, fun**. I think **we were made for the table, we were made for those times, we were made for this**. **AND** we are headed there :)

a) **Slide9a** Is.25:6-8 *On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; & the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces.*

b) **Slide9b** **God will be cooking.** It's not gonna be *Chef Boyardee's* Beefaroni, or frozen taquitos, but God as our Chef.

2. **Slide10a** Many envision **Heaven** as an endless sing-along. **Or**, sitting in rows all being taught for all eternity (for all of us that are *fidgety* that sounds pretty hard). **Or**, you're a chubby angel sitting on a cloud. **Or**, you're in this *ethereal realm of disembodied spirits* just floating around.

a) **No**, the Bible give us a better picture: picture superior company, being in the presence of Jesus Christ, superior feasting, a restored body ... *this is where we are headed!*

3. It's amazing that Jesus spent so much time *sitting and eating* with people.

a) It's a picture of an *already but not yet* experience.

4. **Do you want to get to know people here at CM?** Eat with people.

5. **Do you want to share your faith with people not yet in the kingdom?** Eat with them.

C. **Slide10b** **Outline:** 4 scenes of Lessons at a Dinner Table:

1. **First**, he addresses **the religious leaders**. **Then the guests**. **Then the hosts**. **Then a fellow guest** (who makes a statement, and Jesus goes parable on him).

III. **Slide11** **ADDRESSING THE PHARISEES (1-6)** *Tradition or Mercy?*

A. **Note:** a ruler of the Pharisees. They were watching Him carefully.

B. **Dropsy** - Years ago, *Rena*, a teacher in our day school, got a call from a parent saying, *her child said that her teacher had a demon in her arm*. **Ha, no, edema!**

1. **Dropsy** is *edema*, excess fluid.

C. Jesus knows their thoughts **and** asks a question.

1. They, like your kids often do when guilty, **don't answer**.

D. W/tension in the room. *Took him, healed him, sent him away* (away from these guys).

E. In Lev, the law was actually if **your neighbor** has this situation, **it's rt to help them**.

1. **But** Jesus ramps it up to their own **son or** animal.

2. For us today, not a **well** issue, **but** maybe your child drove late at night into a ditch & calls you for help (sorry son, wait till Sun)?

3. You can be **lost** to irreligion **or** in-religion (hedonism **or** hyper-law).

IV. Slide12 **ADDRESSING THE GUESTS (7-11)** *Self-Promotion or Humility?*

A. The guests were playing the toddler game we've all heard & seen, *look at me, look at me!* (normal for toddlers, embarrassing for adults)

1. **Does everyone see me & how important I am?**

B. **Shocking** (no fam or friends?). Don't over interpret it.

1. It's not wrong to hang with your family or friends. **Jesus loved dining with his best friends. They will know how we love by how we love one another, so** we need to be together to do that.

C. I'm glad today they have *place cards* at weddings.

1. If where we sit, makes us important, then we are not very important. It should be who we are, not where we sit there really counts.

2. Jesus develops this from Prov.25:6,7 *NLT Don't demand an audience with the king or push for a place among the great. 7 It's better to wait for an invitation to the head table than to be sent away in public disgrace.*

D. **Jesus is saying, don't limit your guest list to that.** Be mindful of those who cannot repay you. **Make space for the poor, the vulnerable.** He's at this feast and asking, *where's the single mom, the orphan, the lonely?* That's a problem.

1. See in the gospel we identify with these people. We are not superior to the poor, crippled, lame, or blind.
2. In the gospel *we are the poor* (we have nothing to bring to God, *yet* He brought us to His table). In the gospel *we are the crippled* (unable to even walk to God, *and yet* He's rescued us). In the gospel *we are the blind* (unable to see the truth of the gospel, *yet* He opened our eyes, otherwise we'd still be in the dark).

a) *The proper response to grace, is grace.*

- E. (11) *It's the basic principle of humility - or rising downward. Which will draw others to us & also draws God to us.* [Imagine a world where we *competed to out-serve each other*]
- F. *So let's close the distance between us & those in need. Let's not live by the law of payback.*

V. Slide13 ADDRESSING THE HOST (12-14) *Reciprocity or Hospitality?*

A. You will be blessed (not nec now!).

1. You don't have to let everyone know what you did on FB. You will be repaid at the res of the just.

B. *Did you hear that?* ... Jesus ties in *end times rewards* with *who you have over for lunch.*

1. Generosity to the poor will not go unrewarded or unrecognized.
2. *Amazing how ordinary mission can be.* It doesn't always look *extraordinary.*
3. *Do you know what missionaries do a lot of the time?* Often their daily life looks like ... building friendships, having people in their home, mtg for coffee/tea, eating with people. *And you can do the same thing right here.*

VI. Slide14 ADDRESSING A FELLOW GUEST (15-24) *Decline or Attend?*

A. He's the guy who thinks everything Jesus said ... *is for everybody else.*

- B. He's thinking about *the Messianic feast* and his statement is true, but the problem is that he assumes **he** will be there.
1. We know Jesus has a problem with it because He starts w/the word *but*.
 2. Then Jesus **parables** him!
- C. This man knows *religious language*, but is not in Christ.
- D. Slide15a Pause, we've been invited! (2nd invite) *Come, for everything is now ready.*
- E. Problem: many people decline the invitation to *the Salvation Supper*.
1. Double Invitation in that day. The **1st** was to convey the invitation and to make preparations to accept. The **2nd** was when the feast was actually ready. [today we have a save the date *and then* a formal invitation]
 - a) If you agreed to come to the **1st** invitation, to back out was a *breach of etiquette & insult* to the host.
 2. In that the pharisees and the Jews accepted the 1st invite of the law & prophets, but are now rejecting the invitation of *Messiah*. But they still are invited.
- F. The 3 do not say they will *never come*, but that they're just busy/preoccupied now.
1. Slide15b Billy Sunday called excuses *the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie*
 2. Excuses? Buy a field without seeing it? But 10 oxen without examining them? Blame it on your wife? (Dt.24:5 *take a new wife shall not go to war or be charged with any business. Stay home for a year bring her happiness. Where does this include a feast?* Come on buddy, this is a free date night & free food!)
 - a) It's a tragic mistake that many make ... It's to assume they will eventually come. Why do they think this?
- G. The invitation is here today. Say yes while it is today.
1. Slide15c Heb.3:12-15 *Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. 13 You must warn each other every day, while it is*

still “**today,**” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. 14 For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.
15 Remember what it says: “**Today** when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.”

- H. (21) A pre-*Great Commission* text, sending out the evangelists to the ends of the earth, to bring in the nations.
- I. (23) **Compel** - 2 Cor.5:20 *NLT* So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we **plead**, “**Come back to God!**”
1. *Persuade them, plead w/them, love them, compel them ... to come in.*
- J. Jesus as the ultimate hospitable King says *I want my house to be filled*.
1. **I want a big house** (a big, big house, w/lots & lots of rooms), **filled with people**.
- K. **Wrap up:**
1. **Are you coming to the kings party?** You are invited & you can come, just as you are. Everything is now ready (cross).
 2. **Are you anticipating it?** Luther there are only 2 days on my calendar: this day, in light of that day!
 3. **Are you practicing missional hospitality? Are you insulated?** But I’m an introvert, no problem find an extrovert to do it with.
 - a) Be like it says in the msg paraphrase in Rom.12:13, *be inventive in hospitality* (game night, corn hole day, maybe it’s dog sitting for a neighbor, it’s neighbor love)
 - b) **But let’s invite them to Jesus’ party, not just feed them but point them to Jesus.**
 4. **Everyone’s evangelizing something today** (seek to convert).
 - a) I was mowing my lawn Fri & a young man whizzed up on a **Segway evangelizing** to me about *Solar power*.
 - b) Friends want to **convert** you *to electric cars, eating Kale, or their diet plan*.

c) *Let's go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city and bring them in. For everything is now ready!*

L. Communion:

M. Keywords: Heaven, great commission.