

## Final Kingdom: Banquet Parable

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### Reflection & Discussion

#### **During this season of Lent, we are going to look at Jesus' parables about the Kingdom**

A Kingdom parable is a story that helps us see and hear how to experience God's reign on earth.

\*How do parables or stories help you understand difficult concepts?

\*In what way do you plan to engage and experience the Kingdom during the Lenten season?

#### **The Kingdom grows through radical hospitality**

Read and discuss Luke 14:16-24 (NIV)

*<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup> At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'*

*<sup>18</sup> "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.'*

*<sup>19</sup> "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'*

*<sup>20</sup> "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'*

*<sup>21</sup> "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.'*

*<sup>22</sup> "Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'*

*<sup>23</sup> "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. <sup>24</sup> I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'*

\*What does this passage say about God's unstoppable generosity?

\*How does this parable help you see and hear the Kingdom? Where do you see it being displayed like this in our midst?

\*What is encouraging about this parable? What is challenging?

#### **The Kingdom of God is voluntary**

Personal preoccupation robs us of the experience of God's Kingdom.

\*What do you notice about the examples people gave for not attending the banquet?

\*Where do you tend to be preoccupied? What robs you of experiencing the Kingdom?

#### **The Kingdom is about God sitting shoulder to shoulder with the needy (people like us)**

For us to experience and participate in the Kingdom means that we do that too.

\*What dinner party skills do you need to practice and get better at?

\*Where do you struggle to engage well in a loving way with objectionable guests?

\*How does regular engagement with the God who loves objectionable you help you sit with others? Do you have an example of how this has been true in your life?

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