



February 21st Discussion Guide

LENT SERIES: PARABLE OF THE BANQUET

This is a 5 week study called **Stories to live by: A Lent series on the Parables of Jesus**. Content for this discussion guide is based on the sermon, so participation in weekly worship will enhance the conversation on this topic. If you want to watch the sermon it can be viewed at [Sermons Archive - Good Shepherd Church Naperville](#)

Prayer

Open your group in prayer.

Icebreaker (10 min)

Do you or your family participate in any kind of special fast or acts of service during the 40 days before Easter? Share how that started and the benefits you see from that experience.

Discussion (30 min)

1. Read Luke 14:1-6, Deuteronomy 15:7, 8, 10, Matthew 22:36-40.
 - a. What was the goal of the dinner? What is the answer to Jesus' question "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?"
 - b. Give examples of how we put man made rules or personal standards above helping people.
 - c. Who do you know that needs help, healing, or prayer? Will you fulfill these needs?
2. Read Luke 14:7-11. What did Jesus teach here about seeking honor? Name a time when you sought for a greater title, position, or accolade. What were the pitfalls of this strategy and how could you have made a better choice?
3. [WATCH](#) this video and follow along in Luke 14:12-24.
 - a. What excuses do you make when God invites you to learn, pray, serve, study, etc?
 - b. Read Revelation 19:6-9. What banquet did Jesus have in mind when giving this parable?
 - c. Who did Jesus say should be invited to the banquet?
 - d. Read Romans 5:6-8. How are you included in that list to the banquet? Have you accepted the invitation? Why or why not?
 - e. Who do you need to invite to the banquet?
4. **Application question:** How do we invite people to know God so they, too, will accept the invitation to the Great Banquet? What is one way you will:
 - a. Prayer? LORD, help us look past our own needs.
 - b. Care? Find ways to help those in need.
 - c. Share? Invite people to small group, or church online or in-person. Tell someone how God is working in your life.

Closing Prayer

LORD, help us see like you see. Give us eyes for those around us. Make our hearts aware of the battles that are raging. Help us love like you love. Holy Spirit, heal and restore us all!