

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Service Over Status: Jesus’ Call To Humility” Text: Luke 14:1-14

I. Introduction Questions:

- What is a parable and why do you think Jesus used them?
- What do you make of the fact Jesus does some of His best work at mealtime? How can Christ-followers engage in food-based ministry?

II. READ Luke 14:1-14

III. Questions on Luke 1:1-14

1. Describe the “trap” Jesus was walking into. What were the experts in the law carefully watching for? (V1)
2. How does Jesus respond to their trap? (V2-6)
3. How did the experts in the law respond to Jesus’ questions? Why? What about the questions put the religious leaders in a bind?
4. By healing the suffering man anyways, what did Jesus communicate?
5. What does Jesus notice at the start of the banquet? (V7)
6. Summarize the parable Jesus tells. (v8-11)
7. Take some time to discuss v11. How does it sit with you? Explain.
8. Describe the revolutionary call of Jesus to “expand our guest lists.”
9. You heard Pastor Dave say, “Jesus encourages a vision for church where ethnicities, disabilities, and socio-economics don’t divide us but rather bring us together and enrich us.” What are the risks and rewards of this kind of vision for church? Discuss.

IV. Life Application Questions

A. *Trying to impress God or others never works.*

- What might we do to try to impress others? What do you think drives us to try and do this? Explain.

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- Pastor Dave said: “Desire to *impress God* can also be driven by fear of disappointing Him.” He then shared a message from a sermon: “God is never disappointed or disillusioned with us because God had no illusions of us in the first place.” (Graham Cooke) Discuss.
- We are only lifted up via humble obedience and faithful service to God. Why/how does Jesus value service over status?
- Why might we be tempted to move ahead of God and self-promote? What are the results/consequences? Read Matthew 23:11-12.
- How does Jesus back up His teaching with His actions?

B. *We best battle our pride with God's grace.*

- Describe God's grace. Why might it be difficult (but important) for us to receive? Describe.
- Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Pastor Dave said: “Only when we encounter the God of grace do we find a faith that sustains.” Agree/disagree? Why is this important? Discuss.
- Have you ever felt God's loving presence? Have you received His amazing grace? Share. How might we better embrace God's grace?

C. *The kingdom of God is open to everyone.*

- Tough Question: Why might those who were well-off to imagine they are superior in God's sight to the “poor”?
- God welcomes all into friendship with Him. How might we be truly generous with our time, our resources, or our relationships?
- Name the rewards of befriending people outside our social sphere. Share of a time you have done this.

**SPEND TIME IN PRAYER ASKING GOD TO
EXPAND YOUR GUEST LISTS!!!**