

## **Small Group Bible Study Questions. Sermon by Pastor Brendan. Jan. 25'26: Compel Them! Luke 14:13-24**

*From Brendan: “These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!”*

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer.

### **Icebreaker Questions:**

- What is the best invitation you have ever had?
- If you could invite *anyone* (alive or dead) to a dinner at your house, who would it be and why?

### **Read Luke 14:13-24**

- What stands out to you as you read this passage?
- Why do you think Jesus responds to the statement “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God” with this particular story?

### **Three Excuses and Three Opportunities for Spiritual Formation (Luke 14:18-20):**

- WORK AND SUCCESS:
  - How is work a blessing in your life?
  - How is work difficult?
  - How have you seen work and success crowd out things that matter like family and faith?
  - How have you been able to honour God with your work?
- POSSESSIONS AND RECREATION:
  - Why do novelty and recreation have such a strong pull for us?
  - How can hobbies and recreation *either* form us spiritually *or* distract us from God?
  - Where have you personally felt the tension in this area?
- MARRIAGE AND FAMILY:
  - What happens when we expect marriage, kids, or family to give us what only Jesus can?
  - How can homes become places that *cultivate* faith rather than crowd it out?
  - *Quote for reflection: “The atmosphere of a home is the most lovely when those who dwell within it remember that they are also members of the great family and household of God.” — William Barclay*

### **Read 1 Peter 3:15.**

- What’s the difference between respecting Jesus, following Jesus, and *revering Jesus as Lord*?
- Why is surrender harder than belief?

### **How to talk about Jesus without looking like an Idiot: Andy Bannister**

- Do you have an example of talking about your faith with someone? How did it go?
- Why is it hard to share your faith?
- What would make it easier?

Discuss how these questions could help:

1. Do you think there's some kind of god? If so, what is god like?
2. What does it mean to be human?
3. What's gone wrong with the world?
4. What's the solution?

### **WHAT? WHY? WONDERING? WHETHER?**

- WHAT do you mean, when you say the word God?
- WHY do you think that all religions lead to God?
- Have you ever WONDERED why humanity is so drawn to things like art and beauty?
- I wonder WHETHER Christianity makes better sense of human rights and dignity than other worldviews?

### **Application & Prayer**

#### **Personal reflection/challenge for the week!**

- What invitation from Jesus have you been delaying or excusing?
- Who might God be asking you to *invite*—into your life, your home, or a conversation?

#### **Prayer Ideas**

- Pray for open hearts to God's invitation
- Pray for courage and wisdom in relationships
- Pray by name for one person God has placed on your heart

#### **Optional closing prayer:**

“Jesus, thank you for inviting us into your Kingdom. Help us to revere you as Lord, to hold good things rightly, and to invite others with grace and love. Amen.”