

Where do you see yourself in this parable?

Why do you think Jesus used the picture of a great banquet or wedding feast to describe the kingdom of God?

Reflecting on all the above, how do you now feel about sharing your faith with others?

Think of one person you care about, with whom you would like to share the good news. Write down one thing from the list above that you feel they might love to know about the kingdom of God and share this with the group.

**Pray for each other for wisdom, sensitivity, and the right opportunity to share the wonders of the kingdom with your friend.**



# Towards Jerusalem

## “Stories from Luke Pointing to the Cross”

### Growth Group Study Guide

#### Week 3: The Banquet

#### 21 March 2021

#### Luke 14: 1-24

#### **Series Overview:**

Towards Jerusalem is a series that is going to take us all the way to Easter. It's based on Luke 10-24 and follows Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. The first nine chapters of Luke focus primarily on who Jesus is. But when you get to chapter 9, the focus shifts.

We are told in chapter 9, verse 51:

*“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”*

Luke 9:51(NIV)

### **Series Overview continued:**

From that point forward, the narrative of Luke's gospel is all about Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. It is not a journey driven by geographical landmarks or distance milestones. Rather, it is a journey of the heart. Jesus is preparing himself and his disciples for all that awaits them in Jerusalem. He is preparing them for the cross. But more than that, Jesus is preparing them for that which comes after the cross. He is preparing them for the resurrection and for the mission to which those who have been raised to life in Christ have been called.

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus speaks to his disciples and to those he meets along the way. His words are both comforting and jarring, encouraging and challenging, gentle and harsh. They are words that proclaim the kingdom of God. And they invite the listener to not only embrace this kingdom but to devote their lives to advancing it. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem begins and ends with a very specific call for his disciples to be on mission.

### **Week 3: The Banquet**

Text: Luke 14:1-24

Do you find it easy to share your faith? If you sometimes struggle, what is it that holds you back?

Here in chapter 14, Jesus continues to teach about the kingdom of God. He often used pictures and metaphors to do this and here as he sits down to dinner at the house of a Pharisee, the picture of a banquet is front and centre. What other metaphors or pictures come to mind, that Jesus uses at other times to help us understand the kingdom of God?

Why do you think he uses pictures like this?

The Sunday message highlighted 4 things that Jesus wants us to know about the kingdom of God, from his actions, teaching and stories during this meal.

#### **1. The kingdom of God is all about MERCY**

What isn't the kingdom of God about? Vv2-6

#### **2. The kingdom of God is all about HUMILITY**

What isn't the kingdom of God about? Vv7-11

#### **3. The kingdom of God is all about GENEROSITY**

What isn't the kingdom of God about? Vv12-14

#### **4. The kingdom of God is all about GRACE**

What isn't the kingdom of God about? Vv15-24

The parable of the banquet challenges the Jewish people in Jesus' day who felt a sense of entitlement that they would eat at the feast of the kingdom of God, but who rejected Jesus when he arrived with the invitation.