

Stories of the Kingdom Discussion Questions 07.23.17

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story about a time when you got invited to something and you were not sure you wanted to attend.
2. What do you think it would feel like to be the one who planned a party only to have none of the invited guests want to come?

Background

At this point in his story, Jesus is having dinner with a prominent Pharisee on the Sabbath and he and the other Pharisees at the dinner have set a trap for Jesus. They brought a man who was ill to join them, simply to see whether Jesus would heal on the Sabbath or not. But, Jesus knew what they were up to and took the opportunity to not only heal the man, but do some teaching. The parable we will be looking at begins immediately after Jesus talked about being humble and not choosing the place of honor when you are invited to a banquet. One of the people at the table heard him say that and chimed in that it will be great to eat at the feast of the kingdom of God. Jesus responded with this parable.

Read Luke 14:15-24

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. In the parable Jesus says a great banquet is being prepared. What do you think it would have been like to go to a great banquet?
2. What sort of excuses does the servant get from those who were invited to the banquet?
3. What is the response of the host when he is told of the excuses?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. How would you tell this parable in a modern context? Does it need to be changed much?
2. In what ways do you allow the day to day busyness of life keep you from joining in with Jesus?
3. Put yourself in the shoes of the people on the street who got the last minute invitation. How would you have felt? How can you hold on to and remember that feeling?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. How do you cultivate your heart so you are aware of the invitations to join Jesus at the feast?
2. What will it take to slow our lives down so that we are not among the ones who get excluded from the feast because we are too busy?

3. What is the message from this parable that you would share with those who know Jesus?
Would you tell the story differently to someone who does not know Jesus?

Closing

Take some time to pray together for the ability to keep Jesus in the center and not miss his invitations to come and feast with him. Share together any ideas you have for maintaining awareness of the invitation that Jesus has given us.

Reminder: Stories are a crucial element used to help us connect with others, know where we came from and where we are going. As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven it is critical for us to know and tell our stories as they remind us of who saved us, what he has left us to do and where we will spend eternity.