

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 3: Dinner Party Declarations from Jesus
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Describe a good party. What characteristics would one need to possess to be labeled “the life of the party?” What would a “Jesus/kingdom of God” party look like?

Digging In: Read Luke 14:7-14

1. Jesus is dining at the home of a leader of the Pharisees. Paint a picture of what is happening in vs. 7. Share your thoughts.
2. Meals in the ancient world were rituals of social status. The place given to someone at the table was determined by their place in the social “pecking order.” Shame and honor were among the most important values in 1st century Jewish culture. How do Jesus’ words in vs. 9-11 confront what is going on? What point is Jesus trying to communicate?
3. What is our kingdom application from vs. 11? How do we put it into practice?
4. Verses 12-14 are directed to the host of the party. How do you think he (the host) interpreted these words?
5. 1st century banquets were sometimes used to flaunt and elevate one’s status in the community. The host would invite friends of equal status and those honored guests would then be expected to reciprocate. What is Jesus saying about this tendency? Who would you think Jesus would invite to a 1st century party?
6. What is God saying through Jesus about who is invited to His party? How does God want His kingdom citizens to respond?

Reflection:

1. In what way(s) do we seek to “pick the place of honor” today? How is this account confronting this attitude and behavior?
2. What is true humility? How do we live humble lives?
3. In what way(s) can we follow Jesus’ instruction to the host of the dinner party? Is there a word from Jesus here about what leadership looks like in this kingdom? What action is God calling you/your group to take?

Prayer: Ask God to help you walk in humility. Pray for strength as you fight the earthly tendency to be first. Pray for wisdom as you grow in your understanding of how to live out His kingdom call from these verses.