

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 4: Who's In, Who's Out? Jesus on Kingdom Citizenship
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Have you ever thrown a party and had more people refuse the invitation than accept it? Describe those feelings.

Were you part of the “in” crowd in your younger years or today? If you were/are, how did/do you feel about those outside your group? If you're on the “outside”, how did you feel about the “in” crowd?

Digging In: Luke 14:15-24

1. In Luke 14:15, someone responds to what Jesus told the host of the party at the home of a prominent Pharisee. What do you think about this response? Is it genuine? Do you think he feels like he will be eating at the feast in the kingdom? If so, what point is he trying to make with his statement?
2. Jesus tells a parable responding to this statement. What is the point of the parable? What response would this provoke? How do you think the one that made the statement in vs. 15 responded?
3. Discuss the symbolism in this parable. What would the banquet symbolize? The host? What about the people who offered excuses? What about the banquet attendees?
4. In the parable, how do you think the excuses made the host feel? What about the excuses? Do you think you would buy a field before inspecting it? Would you buy oxen before trying them out? Does this say something about these people? Is Jesus trying to make a point?
5. The people that attended this banquet were there because of the graciousness of the host, the abundance of his resources and because he wanted his house full. If we understand the host to represent God, what does this say about His kingdom?

Reflection:

1. How does this parable confront the way we currently live as God's people? Do you find this parable radical or shocking? What is it saying about God's kingdom?
2. Who are the outsiders in our culture who often don't get an “invitation”? How is God calling your group to act in light of this observation?
3. Beyond your initial conversion experience, how have you responded to God's invitation to Kingdom participation? What do you sense God saying to you through this parable?

Prayer: Ask God to bless you to see His vision of His Kingdom. Seek Him for guidance and pray for wisdom as you grow in your understanding of how to live out His kingdom call from these verses.