

# WEEK 6: A STORY ABOUT THE KINGDOM WE BELONG TO

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### PREPARE

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### MAIN POINT

As a traveling speaker with a story he used multiple times, Jesus told a fascinating parable about a king, a wedding feast, people who were invited rejecting the invitation, and people who others thought should not get invited getting invited. Jesus applied the story differently to different audiences, focusing on the lame and the blind in the account Luke recorded and focusing on anyone who would come in the account Matthew recorded. But in both accounts, Jesus said His Kingdom is like this party, full of joy and filled with people you would not expect. The story is thrilling because you have a part to play in His Kingdom. Learn your part in the unfolding story of God.

### LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

**Think of a time you attended an awesome, unforgettable party or celebration—what is it that made it so amazing?**

### LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Matthew 22:1-14

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to summon those invited to the banquet, but they didn't want to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants and said, 'Tell those who are invited: See, I've prepared my dinner; my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

5 "But they paid no attention and went away, one to his own farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his

servants, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged, and he sent out his troops, killed those murderers, and burned down their city.

8 "Then he told his servants, 'The banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Go then to where the roads exit the city and invite everyone you find to the banquet.' 10 So those servants went out on the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding banquet was filled with guests. 11 When the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed for a wedding. 12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him up hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

Read Luke 14:16-24

16 Then he told him, "A man was giving a large banquet and invited many. 17 At the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who were invited, 'Come, because everything is now ready.'

18 "But without exception they all began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. I ask you to excuse me.'

19 "Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm going to try them out. I ask you to excuse me.'

20 "And another said, 'I just got married, and therefore I'm unable to come.'

21 "So the servant came back and reported these things to his master. Then in anger, the master of the house told his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in here the poor, maimed, blind, and lame.'

22 "'Master,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been

done, and there's still room.'

23 "Then the master told the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. 24 For I tell you, not one of those people who were invited will enjoy my banquet.'"

**In the parable of the Great Banquet, Jesus tells the story of a man who threw a big party. In Luke 14:21, Jesus says, "...the master of the house told his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in here the poor, maimed, blind, and lame.'"**

**What does that verse tell us about the heart of Jesus?**

LOOK OUT  
IDENTIFY THE  
RELEVANCE OF  
GOD'S WORD IN  
THE WORLD

**What kind of people would be considered the "outcasts" of our society today?**

**What makes it difficult to engage with the people we would consider "outcasts"?**

**What are some practical ways we can be hospitable and welcoming to those our culture would call “outcasts”?**

**In what ways were you an “outcast” in relation to God? How did He welcome you to himself?**