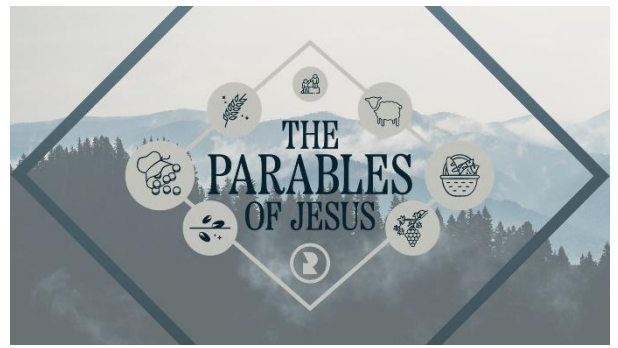


GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Luke 14:1-14

HUMILITY AND THE HEART OF THE KINGDOM



About this series:

This series explores the radical teachings of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, where He consistently challenges societal norms and religious traditions. Luke paints a picture of a Messiah who upends expectations, welcomes the outsider, and calls His followers to a life of humility and service. As we journey through this book, we are invited to align our hearts with the values of the Kingdom of God—compassion over status, generosity over self-interest, and humility over pride. Luke reminds us that true greatness is found not in seeking honor but in serving others as Christ did.

Goals of this week's discussion/study:

In Luke 14:1-14, Jesus challenges the religious leaders on their rigid interpretations of the law and their pursuit of honor and status. Through a miraculous healing and a parable, He highlights the values of the Kingdom—compassion, humility, and selfless generosity. This passage invites us to examine our own hearts: Are we striving for worldly recognition, or are we living in a way that reflects the heart of Christ?

Connections with the 7 Marks of a Jesus Follower

- **Keep in Step:** True honor in the Kingdom of God comes through humility, not self-promotion.
- **Walk in the Word:** Jesus calls us to serve and invite those who cannot repay us, mirroring His own generosity.

Suggested Starter Questions

- Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like an outsider? How did it impact you?
- Why do you think Jesus repeatedly confronted the Pharisees about their approach to the Sabbath?
- What does humility look like in our daily lives? How does our culture's view of status contrast with Jesus' teaching?

Discussion

Read Luke 14:1-6

1 One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. 2 And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. 3 And

Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” 4 But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. 5 And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” 6 And they could not reply to these things.

- Why do you think the Pharisees remained silent when Jesus asked if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath?
- What does this encounter reveal about Jesus’ priorities compared to those of the Pharisees?
- How do we sometimes get caught up in religious rules and miss the heart of God’s love and compassion?

Read Luke 14:7-11

7 Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, 8 “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, 9 and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- Why do you think Jesus used a feast to illustrate humility?
- How does this parable challenge our natural desire for recognition and status?
- In what ways do we try to elevate ourselves rather than letting God honor us in His timing?

Read Luke 14:12-14

12 He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

- What does Jesus’ instruction to invite the poor and outcast teach us about Kingdom values?
- How does this passage challenge our motives for generosity and hospitality?

- Who is someone in your life that you could serve or invite into your life with no expectation of repayment?

Applying the Text

- What aspect of this teaching was most compelling to you personally?
- How is God calling you to practice humility and generosity this week?
- Who is someone you can serve or honor in a way that reflects Christ's love?

Pray

- Pray for hearts that seek humility over recognition.
- Ask God to reveal areas where we need to practice selfless generosity.
- Pray for opportunities to extend hospitality and love to those who cannot repay us.