

Parable of the Great Banquet

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series during the season of Epiphany will consider various parables of the kingdom (Scandalous Kingdom). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Read **Luke 14:1-14** (the prelude to the parable). Notice that Jesus is being carefully watched at a Pharisee's house. How does the setting of scrutiny and social power shape everything that follows?
- Jesus tells the host to invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind—those who cannot repay. How countercultural is this command? What would “hospitality without return” look like today, and why is it so difficult to practice?
- Read **Luke 14:15-24**. What stands out for you in this parable?
- The rejected guests are busy with work, property, and family—things Scripture often affirms. Why does Jesus portray these as disqualifying?
- What do these excuses reveal about misplaced priorities or the cost of discipleship?
- Notice that the host becomes angry when the invited guests refuse yet responds by expanding the invitation. How do anger and grace coexist in this parable? What does this suggest about God's patience—and limits?
- The poor, marginalized, and outsiders end up filling the banquet. Is this primarily a critique of religious elites, a warning to insiders, or a promise to the excluded?
- Read **Luke 22:7-16**. Consider for a moment who is eating this meal with Jesus (pause). What are the parallels between the Last Supper and this parable?
- What does the parable teach us about who “belongs” in the kingdom of God?