



Tues 15/ Weds 16 November 2022: Luke 14 – A Meal of Mission

Please read Luke 14 together.

As this past Sunday was unique in that there was a different focus in the evening sermon (Felix) and 9:30am sermon (Sarah) and 11:15 (Jago), we have made the below study less of a companion to any of the sermons and more of a deep dive in to a particular part of Luke 14. Please do take a few moments at the start of your time together to allow people to reflect on whichever service they had been at and share with the group anything that stood out /found challenging / encouraging as a way of encouraging one another in our experience of the Spirit revealing truth to us personally as we hear his Word.

Please reread Luke 14:12-14 and then consider the following questions:

1. Does anyone have an example to share of a time when you were invited to a meal where you felt like you didn't "belong". Alternatively, share an experience of when you might have not been invited to a party or meal that you feel like you should have been invited to.
2. How did those experiences make you feel? How have they made you think or behave differently going forward (or not?)
3. In what ways are you and I poor, weak, cripple, blind and lame? Is there a spiritual reality – if not a physical one – that we have been invited to a banquet that we cannot comprehend the astronomical cost of?
4. With Christmas on the horizon, so many of us are considering our feasting and socialising options. Realistically, what could be obstacles to inviting the poor, cripple, lame and blind? Do you think that's what Jesus really means here? For you and me today? If not, what do you think he would speak into our currently cultural context?
5. What do you think Jesus means by verse 14: "...although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous?"
6. Gregory Porter sings a song that so beautifully depicts the heart of Jesus in the following link – please take a couple of minutes as a group to listen to the words and heart of this song: [Take Me To The Ally](#)
7. Maybe take some time now to thank God for the ways in which He lavished us with all heavenly blessings... for the incomprehensible generosity of His goodness to us – the air in our lungs; the homes and work and opportunities He has equipped us for and blessed us with... and ultimately the gift of Life to the full because of the sacrificial death of Jesus in our place. Pray for opportunities to connect with others quite different from ourselves. Ask God how He would have us be generous hosts and representatives of Him in our places of work and socialising.

This week we have provided some additional thoughts and exercises on "Hospitality" as an appendix. The intention is that your group members can take the ideas and mull over them on their own at home. Our hope is that it will create an opportunity to consider further what God invites us into as we respond to His generosity to us and look to love others well.

Appendix - A look at the practise of Hospitality

Jesus said the second most important command in the Torah (the Bible of his day) was Leviticus 19v18: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”


We usually generalize neighbour to mean anybody, and that’s fine. Jesus himself said the word is so wide it encompasses our enemy. But if our neighbour is everybody, then it’s kind of nobody.

What if Jesus meant our actual neighbour? As in the people who live on our street or in our flat share? Or those who share the same office or workspace as us? What if he intended for them to be the primary recipients of our love?

AN INVITATION IN RESPONSE TO THIS:

Exercise #1: Block Map

The following is an exercise from artofneighboring.com

a. b. c.	a. b. c.	a. b. c.
a. b. c.		a. b. c.
a. b. c.	a. b. c.	a. b. c.

- The centre square is your home or flat or possibly even your cubical at work. The eight squares around it are your eight closest neighbours/colleagues. Do the following for each:
 - o On line A, fill in their name. Ideally first and last, but just put down what you know. If you don’t know their name yet, just put down question mark, or leave it blank. Do the same for the next two lines.
 - o On line B, fill in any factoids you know that you couldn’t get from waving across the street/in the corridor: where they work, where they are from, how long they’ve lived there, what they do for fun, etc.
 - o On line C, see if you can fill in any in-depth information: their dreams for the future, relationship status, their faith (or lack of it), experience with God or church, their childhood story, any pain, etc.
- As a general rule, only 10% of people can fill in line A, only 3% can fill in line B, and less than 1% can fill in line C. The point here isn’t guilt and shame; it’s simply to plot out just how well you know (or don’t know) your “neighbours”, to get you started on the journey to loving them.

Exercise #2: Brainstorming Session

- Get out a whiteboard, journal, evernote file, or your word doc of choice, and brainstorm a list of creative ideas for neighbouring (i.e., how to love your neighbours well by creating an environment of hospitality).
- Feel free to do this by yourself via listening prayer or over food or drinks with your family, friends, or a few close neighbours, and the music cranked up to 11.
- Here's a list to get you started:
 - o Prayer walk your neighbourhood/office block and ask Jesus for his eyes and heart for your place
 - o Go meet one of your neighbours/colleagues that you don't know yet
 - o Invite all eight neighbours/colleagues from your block map over for dinner over the next few months
 - o Invite all eight of them to one of our upcoming Christmas services and maybe for a drink at the pub afterwards
 - o Throw a Christmas party and invite those you work with
 - o Rally others from your Connect Group to join with you as you fill and deliver Christmas boxes to the church for our Love Christmas drive
 - o Sign up to cook and eat a meal with our guests at Robes this year
 - o Run a weekly neighbour night or after work happy hour with your colleagues
 - o Start a Sunday dinner, where your table is open to family and friends
 - o Do whatever you like to do, but with your neighbours/colleagues: Into sports? Watch football. More of a reader? Start a book club. Like to cook? Start a supper club etc.
 - o Make your home the hang out place for your kids' friends. Invite kids over for a movie night. Have a special snack box in the pantry for your kids friends etc.
 - o Redo your budget and schedule to make room for hospitality
 - o Practice reverse hospitality, where you bring food to someone - a sick co-worker, or a neighbour with a newborn, or somebody out of work, etc.
 - o Bring back Friday Fish and Chips!
- Once you have your list, pick out a few ideas and implement them in the coming weeks and/or months. Be intentional. Put it into your calendar!
- As you practice hospitality, remember why we eat and drink with our neighbours, to "welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you." (Romans 15v7) and as an outworking here and now of the heavenly banquet that we are participating in with God our great Host.

*The above is adapted from a study from **Practicing the Way**.*