



theme: Salvation #3 – Narrow Door, Full House
materials: Bibles, food for a meal together

welcome

Make sure there is food at your cell meeting, and have a good meal together, just talking about where everyone was aware of the presence of God in the last week. Try and make the environment nice for a meal (candles, etc...) and do your best to serve each other well.

interact

Before you eat, say a grace together. Specifically, ask if people will thank God for His invitation to salvation, an invitation to sit and eat with Him at His great "Kingdom Banquet" that we don't deserve, but that He graciously offers us.

read

Read Luke 13:22-30, and then 14:15-25 together. (It might be cool to do the cell talk while you eat if it makes sense to your cell.)

What do you think these passages are saying about salvation?

In both passages some people sit down at the Kingdom Banquet with Jesus (which means salvation) and some are shut out.

Who are the people who get to eat with Jesus?

Who are the people who are shut out? What is the difference between the two groups?

What is significant about Jesus inviting the foreigners, the lame, the poor, and the blind to His banquet?

How do you know if you are in the group that will get to eat with Jesus? In other words, how can you make sure you have a seat at the table? Are you concerned at all?

How can we invite others to the Kingdom Banquet? Do you want to?

Why should we be inviting others to the banquet?

Why would anyone make an excuse not to eat at the banquet, as they do in the second passage?

What excuses do people make now to not go to the Kingdom Banquet?

Are there any excuses you make for not accepting Christ's invitation with everything you have?

think

Host another meal as soon as you can, but this time don't just invite yourselves. Invite people whom you think Jesus would invite to the banquet. Look in particular to Luke 14:12-14 for direction here. Offer this meal and expect nothing in return.

live & pray

Try to avoid eating alone this week. Try and find someone to eat with at each meal, in particular someone you wouldn't normally eat with, or who others don't want to eat with.



useful resources

Movie: Run Lola Run – Great movie, and a good demonstration of someone’s desperation to “save” someone.
Scripture: Other banquet references: Isaiah 25:6; Matthew 8:11; 25:1-10; 26:29 ; Revelation 19:9.

leader’s guide

The people who get a place at the table are the people who would normally not have eaten food with someone of Jesus’ social and religious status. Foreigners (Gentiles), the lame, the poor, the blind – these people would not normally have a seat at the table, nor a place at the Temple for worship. Jesus is turning things on their head, saying that these are the most likely candidates for the feast, for salvation. Others, those who reject the invitation, those who have other more pressing matters, those who wait too long to respond to Christ’s call, will find themselves on the outside.

We shouldn’t allow ourselves to feel too complacent here. This is a warning to us as well. We can be called “Christians”, we can “know” Christ, but still be too busy and concerned with things of this life to be truly answering His invitation, and we can be caught outside. We have to make God’s Kingdom our number one priority, or else we could find Christ saying that He doesn’t really know us.

In the second passage, Christ commands his followers to go out and invite others – the unlikely – to the banquet. So are we commanded. But we are not trying to get people to come to something that is not worth it. This is the great Kingdom Feast, the party to end all parties (literally). We should be both eager and tireless in our invitations.