



DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 4

The Invitation

ICEBREAKER:

Share a time you accepted an invitation, and a time when you turned an invitation down?

BIG IDEA:

Today's big idea: Everyone gets invited to the story!

DAILY BIBLE READING (Optional):

If you'd like our daily bible reading, sign up through our connect card at findcommunity.com/nextsteps.

> Matthew 22:1-14; Acts 9:9-19; Acts 9:20-31; Romans 8:28-30; 2 Peter 3:8-9

> Was there a particular passage that stood out to you?

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:1-14

DISCUSSION:

1. Share what stood out to you from Becca's message this past weekend. Was there a specific thought or story that sparked inspiration, or a difficult observation that you had to wrestle with?
2. Have someone from the group read Matthew 22:1-14. What does the wedding feast represent and how is this similar to the kingdom of heaven? What does this parable from Jesus teach us about the heart of God?
3. In this passage who is the King, who is the Son and who are the Servants? Is the invitation to the wedding still continuing today or was this some event in the past?
4. In the parable, a guest shows up without the proper garments to wear. How does that relate to the way some people will respond to their invitation to the Kingdom or God?
5. Verses 11-14 are an interesting part of this story. Why did the king throw out the unwelcome wedding guest? What quality do the wedding garments symbolize that are necessary for entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Is there a particular invitation that you sense God is giving you in your life right now? What do you sense is your next step to that invitation?
2. Sometimes God's divine call can come through human messengers. With that in mind, who are you uniquely positioned to invite to church or some experience so they can have a chance to respond to God's invitation?

Take Time:

Sometimes there's a great benefit to reciting the prayers of those that have come before us. This week you are encouraged to recite this prayer everyday to allow the purpose of this parable and what it encourages us to do in our hearts:

"Father, thank you for the invitation to be a part of your kingdom. Help us to see that it is not our own merit or good deeds that allow us to enter in, but only through your grace and being clothed by the righteousness of Jesus. Let us be faithful 'servants' that go and invite others to the great wedding feast! Amen".

