

Celebrate Generosity Luke 14

Getting Started:

- Share with the group about the biggest celebration you were ever part of?
- Most people would like to be more generous but feel like they can't for some reason. What keeps you from being more generous with others?

Read Luke 14:15-24 or use the Bible Storytelling technique:

- In the parable the man sought to be generous through a great banquet. How did the invited guests respond to his generous invitation?
- Jesus appears to be alluding to the Pharisees and experts in the law (Luke 14:3) as the invited guests. What does this say about them and what does it say about the others who were invited?
- How did the man in the parable respond after the invited guests turned him down?
- How did the invitation change throughout the parable?

Moving Forward:

- What are principles that you learned from this parable for your life?
- What does this say about the generosity of God and how should we follow that example of generosity in our lives?
- Who should we be generous toward and what are ways that we can be generous to people (other than giving them money)?



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

Fight for Relationship

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.