

THE GREAT BANQUET

The Guest List

The guest list reveals “good news”—it’s an open table!

The Great Banquet: The Unexpected Guest List Revealed

Luke 14:16-24 (ESV)

Conviction

Inspiration:

Matthew 28:18-20, “...Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (NIV)

Nicky Gumble, “We are living in the greatest season of evangelism in our generation.”

The Context of Invitation: Everyday Relationships

Romans 10:14 (NIV)

Each came to Christ through a relationship...

What's our role in sharing the good news of Jesus?

Three things to remember...

1. God is already on the "go"
2. The Spirit is the lead evangelist
3. We each have role to play however small it may seem.

Evangelism: "...we are entering a conversation the Spirit is already having with someone." - Darrell Johnson

The Power of an Invitation

Messengers of Christ's Invitation

1. God sends *everyday people*,
2. who have *encountered Jesus*,
3. with *the courage to share*

Everyday people ...

Matthew 4:18-19 (NIV)

Encountered Jesus....

Luke 5:27-32 (ESV)

John 4:29-42 (NIV), "Come and See"

Courage to Share...

Albert McMakin—celebrate the invite.

Billy Graham, "I don't need a successor, only willing hands to accept the torch for a new generation."

Group Discussion Questions

1. What excites you most about the parable of the great banquet table Jesus tells in Luke 14:15–24? Does it inspire or convict you in any ways you can share?
2. In Matthew 28:18–20 we read the Great Commission each follower of Christ shares. Have you ever had a faith conversation you found refreshing or difficult?

How might you find this easier to do with those who may not yet know about Jesus?

3. Do you have a favourite Bible passage of “invitation” where a friend brings a friend to Jesus? What do you love about the story that comes to mind?

4. Read Luke 5:27-32, the story of Levi the tax collector. What aspects of the invitation do you find compelling given what you know of his role and position in culture as a tax collector?

How might this re-define our own definition of who’s in and who’s out of God’s “guest list” to the banquet table?

Try this:

Write down five people you can be praying for ahead with an intention to invite to the next Alpha hosted at Riverlife. Encourage one another within the group along the way, celebrating the invitation (our part) and trust the Spirit is already at work in the life of those we invite as they make a response (God’s part).