

## You are Invited

### Luke 14:16-24 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup>Jesus replied with this story: “A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. <sup>17</sup>When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ <sup>18</sup>But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’ <sup>19</sup>Another said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’ <sup>20</sup>Another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ <sup>21</sup>“The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ <sup>22</sup>After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is still room for more.’ <sup>23</sup>So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. <sup>24</sup>For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.’”

### Summary:

Jesus often spoke in parables which felt like to many that he was talking in some sort of code. Jesus never intended to hide his wisdom or keep spiritual truth from the listeners. Rather, Jesus wanted people to lean into what he was communicating and think through what it meant for their own lives.

In today’s parable, Jesus tells the story of a man planning an elaborate party only to have his invited guests back out of attending. The man then opens up the invitation to those no one expected him to ever invite.

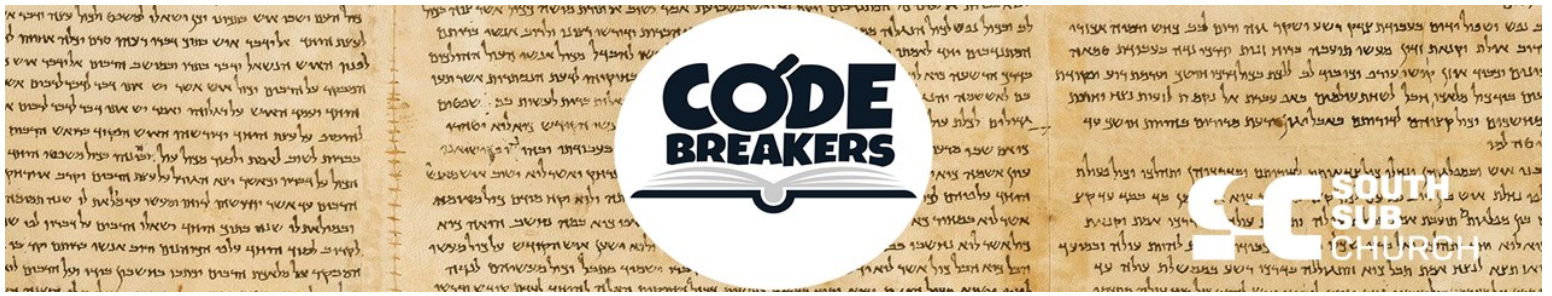
The purpose of the parable is to help the listener to understand that God has invited everyone to follow him and actively be a part of his Kingdom.

### Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Describe the most over-the-top party/wedding/event you have attended.
2. How did it feel to receive an invitation to it?
3. What is a party/event that you would have liked to attend?

### Scripture Study Questions:

1. Who was Jesus speaking to when he gave this parable?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose this opportunity to tell this parable?
3. What were the excuses the initial guests gave for not being able to come? Discuss why each excuse was not valid.
4. Why was the host of the feast upset when the guests declined to attend the banquet?
5. Who was invited to the feast once the initial invitees declined?
6. What is Jesus communicating through the parable when he sent his servant to “the streets and the alleys of the town and invite the poor, crippled, the blind and the lame” (v.21)?



7. What is Jesus communicating through the parable when he said, “For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet” (v.24)?
8. In the parable, who do the following characters/elements represent:
  - Feast
  - Host
  - Servant
  - Initial invitees
  - Secondary invitees

**Application Questions:**

1. Was there a time in your life that you declined God’s invitation?
2. Share the circumstances when you said yes to God’s invitation.
3. What excuses did people give for saying no to following God?
4. How does this parable influence your thoughts on being intentional towards inviting someone to church?