



Small Group Study Guide for February 24, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” The Bible describes joyful fellowship with God as a meal we get to enjoy with Him. We are invited guests of the Lord, and so we come in humility and gratitude for what He offers. Our pride and self-righteousness will find us going hungry. When we come to the Lord in worship, we are His gathered guests, seeking mercy and grace.

Getting Started:

1. What is the biggest number of guests you have ever invited over to your home or served a meal for?
2. What would you serve, and whom would you invite, if Jesus were coming to your house for dinner tomorrow?

In the Word: Exodus 24:3-11

3. When God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, and brought them to Mt. Sinai, He gave them the 10 Commandments and the laws and decrees for the people of God. God spoke these words to Moses, and what did Moses do with the words? (vs. 4)
4. God’s Covenant with Israel was the agreement that Israel would honor the Lord and obey His commandments, and God would be faithful to them and make them prosper in the Promised Land. When God’s part of the covenant was read by Moses, the people responded with their part of the covenant. What did the people say? (vs. 3 & 7)
5. Two events accompanied the making of the covenant. The first was sacrifice. What did Moses do with the blood from that sacrifice?
6. The second event that accompanied the covenant was a meal. Who went up, and what did they see and do? (vs. 8-11)

Read Luke 14:15-24

7. There are numerous occasions in Luke's Gospel where Jesus is eating and drinking with people, or where Jesus describes the Kingdom of God in terms of a banquet. Can you think of any other examples from the Old or New Testament where a meal is mentioned, in connection with the Lord?

8. Look at the context by skimming Luke 14:1-14. What is happening in this chapter that precipitates Jesus' telling the parable of the great banquet?

9. In the ancient Mediterranean world, a banquet would have two invitations. The first is in advance, inviting guests to a future event (mentioned in verse 16). The second invitation was when everything was ready and about to begin (verse 17). What happened when the servants went out to the guests with the second invitation?

10. When the master of the house hears all the excuses, whom does he send the servants to go invite? Notice the two locations where the servants are sent – first the one place, then the other.

Worship Connection

11. God invites us to feast on His word (Scripture) and Himself (Sacrament). What excuses have we given at times to this invitation?

12. What kind of people does God want at the "feast of the Kingdom of God" based on this parable?

13. How do we keep a humble and contrite heart before the Lord when we worship?

14. Close by reading aloud **Isaiah 25:6-9**.

Prayer: Thank God for His amazing grace that calls us, sinners one and all, to eat and drink with Him in the marriage feast of the Lamb. Ask God to give us humble and contrite hearts as we gather for worship, not distracted or entitled, or unappreciative of God's gifts, but joyfully ready to receive, revive, and celebrate!

Next Week – The Way We Worship: The last Sunday of our preaching series is on the *Benediction* or closing Blessing. These words are 3,500 years old, given by God himself. God's desire for His creation is that we are blessed – that we enjoy the creation He made for us. This can happen because Jesus has taken care of our sin and restored our relationship with God – and will renew creation on the Last Day.