

For The One: Week 2

April 5, 2025

Icebreaker Ideas

1. What is your favorite Easter Candy?
2. What is your favorite Easter tradition?

WATCH VIDEO

Message Summary

Jesus tells a parable about a great banquet to illustrate God's heart for the lost. While some who were invited made excuses and declined, the master sent his servant out to find others—the poor, the blind, the outsider—to fill his house. The point is clear: God's Kingdom is open to all, and He wants His house full. But someone must carry the invitation. As followers of Jesus, we're not just guests at the table—we're also servants, sent to find the ones who don't yet know they're invited.

Scripture for Discussion

Luke 14:16–24 (NLT)

16 Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. 17 When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' 18 But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.' 19 Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.' 20 Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' 21 "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.' 22 After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' 23 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. 24 For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'"

Discussion Questions

1. **What part of this parable stood out to you the most and why?** (Was it the excuses? The open invitation? The urgency to go?)
2. **Have you ever felt like you didn't have a seat at the table—in life, relationships, or even in church? What helped you find your place?**
3. **Jesus uses three excuses in the story—possessions, work, and relationships. Which one do you think is most likely to keep people from accepting God's invitation today?**
4. **This series challenges us to identify our “one.” Who is someone in your life that might feel uninvited, overlooked, or unsure if there's a place for them in God's Kingdom?**
5. **What's one practical step you can take this week to extend the invitation to them?** (Prayer, text, invite, lunch, etc.)

Prayer

God, thank You for inviting us to Your table. Thank You that there's room for us—even when we feel unworthy or overlooked. Help us to see others the way You see them. Give us boldness to extend the invitation, and compassion to love the one in front of us. May Your house be full, and may we play our part in filling it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Challenge for the Week

Take Action This Week:

- Name them.
- Pray for them daily.
- Invite them to Easter at church.
- Believe for their story to become one heaven rejoices over.