

#opentablecc

**Altruism:** to have an unselfish concern for or devotion to the welfare of others.

*"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."* **Luke 14:11 NLT**

- **The third way we live in preparation for the Great Feast is to show hospitality**

**Reward Theology:** *"But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve."* **Jeremiah 17:10 NLT**

**"To-Go"**

*"...the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind."* **Luke 14:13b NLT**

*The final course... dessert!*

*"For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet."* **Luke 14:24 NLT**

*"He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him."*  
**John 1:11 NLT**

**RSVP to Jesus!**

*"He does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* **2 Peter 3:9b NIV**

*Next Week...*

Open To All Who Feel Unacceptable



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*Fritz Moga*  
JULY 29, 2018

Open To All Who  
Feel Unwelcome

*"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

**Romans 10:9 NASB**

- **The first way we live in preparation for the Great Feast is as healers**

**"To-Go"**

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."* **Colossians 3:12 NIV**

- **The second way we live in preparation for the Great Feast is to be humble**

**"To-Go"**

*"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."* **Philippians 2:3-4 NLT**



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

## **LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to learn to come to Jesus when we feel unwelcome.**

### BELONG in God's family:

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**CHECK IN:** (optional) Let's briefly share with each other how we've been doing this week.

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

**ICEBREAKER:** When have you felt "out of place" at some event or gathering? What made you feel that way?

### BECOME like Jesus:

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1. Sunday's message was about people who feel unwelcome. How were you challenged to reach out to those people?
2. Read Luke 14:1-14. In a perfect world, the Pharisees would have seen the sick man and told him to join them and wait for Jesus, who would surely heal him. But that isn't what happened. The Pharisees had set Jesus up, knowing He would heal the man, breaking their Sabbath law. Jesus then told a parable that addressed the real issue – their legalism and pride. How did Jesus' parable relate to the Pharisee's pride? How was their pride reflected in their legalism?
3. Jesus' parable warned that there might be someone else invited to the feast more distinguished than themselves. This must have shocked the Pharisees, who considered themselves to be the elite of Israel. Why were they unable to see the needs of the people around them? How was Jesus trying to redirect their thinking?
4. Re-read verse 11, then read Matthew 23:1-12. Clearly, pride was at the heart of the Pharisees' legalism. What is Jesus saying should be at the heart of Christianity?

5. A person might feel unwelcome because they feel unworthy. Strangely, recognizing that you are unworthy is a prerequisite for God's acceptance. Read James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5. How do salvation and humility go hand in hand? How can a feeling of unworthiness be transformed into genuine humility?

### BLESS others:

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Re-read Luke 14:13-14. Very few of us will ever host a banquet where we could invite the poor, crippled, lame, or blind. How do you think Jesus might expect us to apply this parable today?

### BUILD God's kingdom:

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Some people may feel unwelcome because they've never been directly invited to church or to know Jesus. Or they may have been invited, but just weren't interested. How can we reach a person who doesn't recognize their need for God?

### BELIEVE God and act in faith:

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There are times in every Christian's life when we feel distant from God and therefore unwelcome. In those times, we may need to make the decision to take the Bible at its word, believe in God's grace, and accept it. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. We sing a song at church that applies. Read the lyrics together:

I believe everything that You say  
You are I believe and I have seen  
Your unchanging heart  
In the good things and in the hardest part  
I believe and I will follow You

**PRAYER:** What challenge are you facing this week? How can our group pray and support you?

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