



Building the People of God The Deck - Sharing with Others

Text: Luke 14:14-24 & 15:11-32

- ❖ Read, meditate on, and pray through Luke 14:15-24 and 15:1-32.

Reflect: (Spend time with God thinking about these questions)

Take time to reflect back to when you first met Jesus (You might want to journal this). How were you introduced to Jesus? Was it through a single person, multiple people, or some other way? What did you hear or experience that caused you to enter into a relationship with God? While reflecting, can you remember other ways in which God was seeking you out and revealing himself or working in your life?

Find a quiet place and read Luke 15:11-32. Use your imagination and place yourself in the scene: who is the father? Who are you, are you an observer or one of the characters? You will probably want to read the story 2-3 times with breaks in-between to meditate in this creative way.

Interact: (Discuss the following questions with your group, some friends, or just reflect)

- ❖ Take time to meditate together on the exercise above and share your experience together as a group.
- ❖ How do you respond to Glyn's statement, "You must experience the reality of the Kingdom for yourself"? What are you inviting others into?
- ❖ What is the difference between inviting people into a relationship with God and inviting them to church on Sunday morning? What is more frightening and why?
- ❖ Read Luke 14:12-24. Breakdown this story and label the players. Who is God? What is the invitation to? Who is invited? Who does the inviting? Now, what are the implications or application for now? What are you responsible for? What is God responsible for? What are

those who are invited responsible for?

- ❖ If we have a responsibility to go, who do "you", right now in your current context, go to? How can you begin to invite others to the life you are living? How can you share the Gospel with others without them or you feeling like you are selling them something or recruiting them to an organization?

Apply: (Look for ways to apply at least one concept to your life)

- ❖ Take some time to read the Gospels and discover what God is offering through Jesus. What's the "Good News", Mark 1:14, and You how do we share it in the same way Jesus did? Gabriel Falkre: "If we are to get the story out, we must get the story straight." Spend some time in John 17.
- ❖ Romans 12:1 (The Message) *So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life--your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life--and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.* Instead of making evangelism something you do, think of ways you can live as a missionary where you are. How can you tell the story of God with words but more so with actions. Jesus always spoke but deeds were always present sometimes before he even spoke.
- ❖ It's hard to get people to a Sunday morning gathering of the church, so think of ways in which you can invite your friends to experience "being a Christian" without going to a service. (Serving projects, Solidarity is a great ministry locally and check at the Serve Table on Sunday mornings. You can also just have a party with your friends who don't know Jesus and those who do. However, if you don't know many people who aren't Christians or they are just acquaintances, stretch yourself to meet your neighbors or spend more time with those you work with. ***Do not view people as a project but always view them as those who need to be loved and know Jesus just as you are yourself. Look at them the same way Jesus does in his parables, treat them the same way Jesus treats all those who he shared the Good News with.)