

# The Practice of Reclaiming Hospitality

GUIDE FOR WEEK 1

Focus Scripture: Luke 14:7-24 (Common English Bible)

## Welcome Table

### *Before You Get Started...*

Hospitality is like a shared meal in which there is someone who plays the role of *host* and another who plays the role of *guest*. We see this *host-guest* analogy throughout the Biblical narrative, especially in the ministry of Jesus who instructs us to not only invite our family and friends to the feast, but “invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind” (Luke 14:14b). As you reflect throughout the week, think of those you encounter from day-to-day and how you experience these encounters through the lens of our focus scripture.

### **1. Read *Luke 14:7-21* throughout the day**

- ▶ Find quiet times to read the text, asking God to reveal not only its meaning, but allow the text to speak directly to you.
- ▶ Try reading the text both out loud and silently.
- ▶ Imagine yourself in the role of each person in the text.

### **2. Finish each day by reflecting on each person you encountered**

- ▶ Review the day with gratitude.
- ▶ Were there moments that made you keenly aware of God’s presence?
- ▶ Were there moments you found yourself to be in the role of “host” or the role of “guest”? How did it make you feel?
- ▶ Ask God to reveal new meanings and insights in regards to making a place for hospitality in your life.

### **3. Choose an encounter/moment to share with our group that illuminated *Luke 14:7-21*.**

- ▶ Were there encounters this week that modeled the essence of hospitality
- ▶ Were there encounters this week that distorted hospitality or shut out guests?
- ▶ Using the lens of the *Luke 14:7-21* what is God revealing to you?

### **4. Pray and look toward next week.**

- ▶ Thank God for God’s grace and love in your life.
- ▶ Ask God to continue to reveal opportunities to exemplify God’s love and grace to those you encounter in the week to come.