



the visual **faith** project

A Visual Faith Experience Who's On Your Guest List?

By Dr. Dick Hardel

Theme: Who's On Your Guest List? (Luke 14:12-14)

Intended Audience

Small groups of youth, young adults, adults, or senior adults. If you have more people for your experience, divide them into two or more small groups. Intergenerational groups and ethnic diversity are always most helpful because of the variety of their experiences and customs.

Outcome of Experience

Participants will learn from each other what type of people they would invite to a banquet they were hosting. We will explore if and who they might invite outside their family and friends. From the Scripture text we will learn of a suggested process for determining who we should invite to a banquet we are hosting.

Introduce Experience

Sometimes sending out invitations to a banquet we might be hosting is a very difficult task. The difficulty is most often in determining whom to invite. To determine who will or will not make the guest list, it can be helpful to have a theme for the banquet and a budget. In preparing the guest list one can go through a variety of emotions. In the Scriptures Jesus states a very simply process for inviting guest to a banquet.

Image Selection

Instruct the participants to think of a banquet that they could imagine hosting. What might be the theme of the banquet and how large a budget would they have to set? Who would they invite to their banquet? Now choose at least two images that connects to the banquet and also to who would be on their guest list.

Image Packs

We recommend Assorted Set A (set of 100 printed images) for use with this experience or other images that you may already have. You can find Assorted Set A at: <https://vibrantfaith.org/shop/visualfaithcards>



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Who's On Your Guest List? continued...

Facilitator Questions To Guide Group Discussion

1. Do the image(s) that you selected connect to an experience that you have had or have seen?
What is the theme you have set for the banquet?
2. How do you decide whom to invite? Does the theme or budget help the decision on who to invite?
3. Do the images you have selected connect to a specific banquet you have experienced or one you would like to experience? Tell us about your experience at a banquet or the one you would love to host.
4. Have you ever sent out the invitations for a banquet or a special event that included a great meal?
5. What made developing the guest list an easy task or a difficult task?
6. What emotions arise in you as you think about writing the invitations to the banquet?

Scripture (Luke 14:12-14)

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Image Selection

Give each participant a copy of this Scripture text. Ask one person to read this text aloud. Invite the participants to look carefully at this text and think carefully whom they would invite to this banquet. Then go to the tables with the variety of images to select two images that exhibit the type of banquet or the theme and also choose images to show the various guest you would invite.

Questions to Connect Chosen Image with Scriptures

1. How do the images chosen connect to your emotions as you think about this banquet and inviting the guests?
2. It seems that Jesus turns the customs of hosting a banquet upside down. What is different about the first exercise of choosing images and these images that you have just chosen?
3. Why does Jesus suggest these changes to a guest list? How does that connect to you, the host of the banquet?
4. What emotions do you feel in developing this guest list as Jesus suggests?
5. What does such a banquet communicate to you about God?
6. How would you deliver the invitations in the community where you live?
7. How might your family and friends be part of this banquet without being the honored guests?



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Who's On Your Guest List? continued...

Application

- Think about Jesus words, “because they cannot repay you?” In what way is that a blessing?
- Have you attended such a banquet or hosted such a banquet? What role did you serve?
- What would it take for your small group, your organization, or your congregation to host a banquet for the poor, the homeless, the crippled, the lame, or blind?
- Might there be any connection with Jesus’ advice for hosting a banquet and the Lord’s Supper?

Prayer

As the facilitator, create a holy space for the individuals and group to engage in prayer.

Place a cross in the center of a small table. Place a loaf of bread, a cup of water, and small plate of fruit at the foot of the cross. Give each participant a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.

Instruct them to write down at least five ways this group could feed the hungry and two people they know that would welcome a good meal?

When the participants complete this request, instruct them to place their responses on the table near the cross.

Pray the following prayer or one of your own to move this group to action.

Prayer for Action

The eyes of all people look to you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

Send forth your Holy Spirit and touch our hearts with love and wisdom that we might develop one or several ways we can bring food to the hungry and homeless in our community or host such a banquet as you have asked us.

We boldly pray in the name of Jesus.

Make it so Lord through our action!

Make it so!