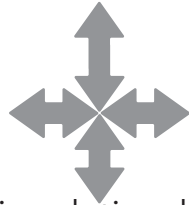




## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of September 15th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



**UP:** growing in relationship with God

**IN:** growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

**OUT:** growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission.

### Get Started:

- ❖ If your group is meeting for the first time, has new members, or is just kicking back off after a break this summer, take time to introduce yourselves around the circle. What is your name, etc. What are you hoping to get out of these next 8 weeks?
- ❖ If your group has been meeting for a few weeks, describe a time when you were the honored guest at a party. What was the occasion? What was that like?



### **UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word**

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 14:7-14. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. Reread verse 8. Where are the places of honor in your life? Where is the place of honor at work (Corner office? A particular meeting?), home, social events, other circles you're in?
2. Reread verse 9. When have you seen someone humbled in this way? When have you seen someone in your life "knocked down a peg"?
3. Reread verses 10-11. How would you define humility? What does false humility look like? When is it easy or challenging for you to be humble?
4. Reread verse 12-14. It seems that Jesus is discouraging jockeying for social status, trying to get close to people in order to make yourself look good, or to get your foot in the door in a higher social circle. What do you think about his words here? Is this realistic in today's world?
5. Do you think Jesus's challenge to celebrate and share meals with the "least of these" in our society is still relevant today? Why or why not?
6. In what ways might this passage challenge you to think differently about what it means to be human?



### **Out: Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)**

We can dehumanize by causing even honorable people to suffer indignity. We can humanize by causing even humble people to feel dignity.

Spend a few minutes brainstorming. How might you participate in dignifying people in your life who have been stripped of this?



### **IN: Connect with Each Other**

Perhaps someone in your group has had an experience of being stripped of their dignity in the last few weeks. Offer an opportunity for that person to talk about it in the group. If no one has anything to share in this realm, simply take time to share general prayer requests.