September 20, 2026

Hospitality

MAKING SPACE FOR THE STRANGER

SERMON: Jesus and the Hospitality of God
SPEAKER: Pastor Steve
CORE SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:12-24

WATCH SERMON | SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In Luke 14:12–24, Jesus reveals the hospitality of God—a welcome that reaches beyond familiar circles to embrace the stranger. Because God has welcomed us in Christ, we are called to become hosts who make room for others. As we follow Jesus into the neighbourhood and across boundaries of difference, we discover that there is still room at God's table, and that everyone can find a place to belong.

SHARE

Think of a time when you were "the stranger"—new to a place, outside the circle, or uncertain if you belonged. What was that experience like? Did someone make room for you? How did that (or the lack of it) impact you?

READ

Read together out loud as a group: **Luke 14:12-24**.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. In Luke 14:12-14, Jesus instructs his host not to invite only those who can repay, but to invite "the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind." What does this reveal about the character of God's kingdom versus the world's economy of relationships? How does this challenge the way we typically think about friendship, community, and reciprocity?

3. Look closely at the parable in Luke 14:16-24. The invited guests make excuses—a field, oxen, marriage. These aren't bad things; they're normal life priorities. What is Jesus teaching us about how our legitimate responsibilities and possessions can become barriers to responding to God's

invitation? What does the host's response (sending servants to the streets, alleys, roads, and country lanes) reveal about God's heart?

4. Pastor Steve said, "Before we become hosts, we have been guests. Before we make room for someone else, God has made room for us." How does understanding yourself first as a guest—a stranger who has been welcomed—change your posture toward extending hospitality to others?

5. Pastor Steve challenged us with "one new name a week"—intentionally meeting someone we don't know at Cornerstone or in our neighbourhoods. When you think about the stranger in your context (church, neighbourhood, workplace, school), who comes to mind? What holds you back from moving toward them?

6. Read Romans 12:13 and Ephesians 2:19-21 together. How do these passages connect our identity as God's household with the practice of hospitality? What does it mean practically that we are "no longer foreigners and strangers" but are now entrusted with God's welcome?

7. Jesus' parable ends with *"there is still room."* In what areas of your life have you created closed circles—friendships, activities, routines—where there might not be room for the stranger? What would it look like to open those circles?

NEXT STEPS

- **One New Name a Week:** This week, intentionally introduce yourself to someone you don't know—at church, in your neighbourhood, workplace, or community. Learn their name, ask a question, and make a connection.
- **Open Your Table:** Prayerfully consider inviting someone who is outside your usual circle into your home or life this month. It might be someone new to Canada, from a different generation, or someone going through a hard season.
- **Examine Your Circle:** Reflect on the question, "Who is missing from my table?" Ask Jesus to show you who He is inviting you to notice and move toward.

PRAY

Take time to pray together as a group:

- Thank God for the welcome you've received in Christ—that you were strangers brought near and made part of His household.
- Pray for eyes to see the strangers around you—those in your church, neighbourhood, and everyday life who are wondering if there's room for them.
- Ask God for courage and intentionality to move toward people who are different from you, to build bridges across difference, and to extend the hospitality of Jesus.
- Pray specifically for the people whose names or faces came to mind during your discussion—that God would give you opportunities to welcome them.

CONNECT

Check **The Hub** for upcoming community events, workshops, or outreach opportunities where your group can practice hospitality together—whether it's serving at an Open Table Thursday dinner, participating in a neighbourhood event, or joining a workshop on building bridges across difference.

CLOSING

"There is still room." Let that be your invitation this week. You've been welcomed by Jesus—now go and make space for the stranger, knowing that in doing so, you're extending the very heart of God.