



Welcome To The Party | Doug Wekenman | 4.14.19
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you had to delete all but three apps from your smartphone, which ones would you keep and why?

SHARE

This week, to prepare us for Easter, Doug reminded us why we do what we do as a church. It was a powerful message, but before we get started, we want to give you another opportunity to share your story with the group. Every person has a unique journey that has led them to this point. Taking the time to share your story is a fantastic exercise for you and everyone listening! Are there two or more people in your group who are willing to share their story?

Here are a few questions again in case you need a guide as you go. Try to keep it under five minutes each to insure the time in group is productive.

- 1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?**
- 2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.**
- 3. How has God changed you most in the last few years?**

Read Luke 14:15-24

What are your initial thoughts about the parable of The Great Banquet? How do you think this story applies to Red Rocks?

Why do you think the servant was so upset to hear that everyone was too busy to come to the banquet? What does that tell us about God?

The Parable of The Great Banquet is a crucial part of the message of Jesus. But to fully understand it, we first need a little context. According to Luke 14:1, Jesus is currently at the home of a "prominent Pharisee." One of the top Pharisee's had invited Jesus over for a meal, and just like Jesus, he naturally accepts the invitation to spend time with him.

This is nothing new for Jesus; He centered most of what He did around the table. We love to talk about Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners, which is true. But what's interesting is He also dined with the prominent religious leaders of the day. Why? Because His message was for the entire world! His greatest desire is for every single person to know the depth and beauty of God's love for them!

He sits down for a meal, and these prestigious religious leaders ask Him some pressing questions while monitoring His answers closely. During dinner, Jesus tells them a story about a Master who threw a giant party and didn't want anyone to miss out!

The Master wanted a full house! He sent messengers out into all the land to bring in as many people as they possibly could. This is where we come in. Our job is not to save anyone, because we humans make awful saviors. However, we do have the privilege to go out into the world and invite as many people as humanly possible to come see and experience the one true Savior and that's Jesus Christ. And as Doug reminded us this week, "inviting people to the party is far more than an obligation it's the greatest honor we've been given."

We believe the message of the Gospel is good news for everyone! Here at Red Rocks, we want to be a church with a front door that is wide-open. Fortunately, we have life-changing news to spread that will bring fullness of life! Inviting people to a giant, amazing party is a lot more fun than trying to sell them something.

How can we find opportunities to open our homes and invite people around the table more?

Take a second a share a few ideas on how we can build relationships where God placed us?

M O V E

Read Matthew 5:13-16

Why do you think Jesus calls us salt and light in this passage?

Jesus calls us the salt and the light of the world because salt and light make the world better. Salt is a preservative that gives flavor to bland food and light helps everyone see in a dark room. Jesus gives us these two pictures right at the beginning of the sermon on the mount. As if to say, before we go any further, let's get one thing straight, our job is to go into the world to preserve the things of God to make this world better!

- You aren't just a student; you are called to add salt and light to your classroom.
- You aren't just a nurse; you are called to be salt and light at the hospital.
- You aren't just a parent; you are called to create a loving household for your kids to grow up in.

On and on we could go. As followers of Jesus, we are to walk into every room we enter and make it better!

So back to the parable of the banquet, remember this is an honor, not an obligation. Our primary motivation for being salt and light should not be fear; but of love. Because if the Gospel isn't good news for everyone, it isn't good news. Our role is not to decide which people get to hear about this good news; our calling is to declare this good news to everyone. We want to be a church that truly is the salt and the light in our city. And we want everyone who calls Red Rocks home to carry that mentality out into the world with them. Wherever you go this week, be the salt and the light.

Would those who know you describe you as salt and light?

Would you say your primary motivation for being salt and light is fear or love?

Who is the one person, couple or family you need to invite to church this week? How are you planning on doing that?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for breakthrough for each other. Pick one person in your group and pray for the breakthrough they are asking God for!

If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

T O G O

But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. - Luke 15:32

