



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

WHO'S ON YOUR GUEST LIST?

(LUKE 14:12-14)

1 CHOOSE AN IMAGE

Let's say you're planning a small gathering of "interesting" people for a dinner party. It will be you and just four others. Look at the collection of nine people and choose the four you would invite.

2 REFLECT

Ask some or all of these questions, depending on your context and timeframe

- What was your "criteria" for choosing your four companions for a dinner party?
- When you think of inviting people into friendship, do you generally gravitate to people who seem like they'll be a blessing to you, or to people you think you can be a blessing to? Explain.
- Do you prefer gatherings that involve people who look and live like you, or do you prefer gatherings that emphasize diversity? Explain.

3 READ THE SCRIPTURE

He [Jesus] 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. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

-Luke 14:12-14

4 REFLECT

Ask some or all of these questions, depending on your context and timeframe

- Based on what Jesus is saying in this passage, which of the nine people would He not invite to a luncheon or dinner? Explain.
- Jesus gives instructions on who to invite to a party—what's your emotional reaction to His instructions, and why?
- Why does He emphasize this particular list of "qualifications" for inviting people to a nice party?
- Why is it a blessing to us to not be "repaid" for extending ourselves to the marginalized?