This study guide is meant to help MC Leaders and Apprentices prepare for their MC Meeting time and the discipleship of their MC Members. You can find a simplified version for personal study and use by downloading the Resonate App.

**THIS WEEK’S OBJECTIVES/FOCUS**

In Luke 14:12-24, Jesus provides an explanation of true, gospel-focused hospitality. This week you are going to encourage your MC Members to take a look at the way they show hospitality to others, and to take a step toward inviting others into their life as an act of hospitality. **Our hospitality is ultimately empowered by the hospitality Jesus showed to us.**

**Next Sunday we have baptism classes.** This is a great week for you to ask everyone in your MC if they’ve been baptized, and if they haven’t encourage them to sign up for the baptism classes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFO**

**Baptism:** On Sunday March 17th we’re celebrating out next baptisms. **Baptism classes will be on March 3rd.** Baptism is one of the first steps of obedience Jesus calls His followers to - publicly declaring their faith in Him. What a joy it would be to see so many people baptized by their MC Leaders! People can sign up at [www.resonatemovement.org/connect](http://www.resonatemovement.org/connect)

**Resonate Prayer and Worship Night:** Friday March 1st, join us for a night of prayer and worship from 7pm-8:30pm. Child care available for children 4 and under. Please RSVP for Child Care at [https://tinyurl.com/worshipnightchildcare](https://tinyurl.com/worshipnightchildcare). Children 5 and up will be included in the worship and prayer night.

**Prayer Ministry**

On our **Fremont Campus**, a faithful group gets together to pray at 8am every Sunday morning for all the ministries that day. They meet in Room 909 and would love for you to join them. You can just stop in, or email John Dutra at johnj@dutraenterprises.com for more information.

On our **Hayward Campus** we are gathering a prayer team as well. If you’re interested, email Pastor Will at will@resonatemovement.org
MC DISCUSSION AND MEETING GUIDE

BY GRACE DEVOTIONALS AND PRAYERS

Check in, asking people how their devotionals have gone this past week, and ask if anyone was particularly affected by any. It might be good to ask someone to have something ready to share in advance, to get the sharing starting and encourage them to actually do it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask: Would you consider yourself a hospitable person? Why/why not?
This is just an introductory question to grease the wheels of conversation. The goal today is to get your MC Members to think through their definition of hospitality and just begin to reflect on whether or not they’re hospitable.

Ask: Read Luke 14:12-14. How does the description of hospitality in this passage line up with how our culture generally looks at hospitality?

You’re looking for similarities and differences in the hospitality in this passage and how we view hospitality. Some things of note in this passage: Verses 12-14 say you should invite in people who are strangers to you, people who can’t pay you back. Generally we invite people who can reciprocate. It also suggests that our hospitality to those who can’t repay us today will earn us a reward in eternity. Hospitality here becomes about giving to others, not impressing others. In the New Testament culture, inviting people to your home/parties was a way to move upward socially, so Jesus’ command was even more counter-cultural to the original hearers.

Ask: A Biblical perspective on hospitality is welcoming people into your home (life), treating strangers as family in the hope that they become family. What about that is difficult for you?

There are so many different ways it can be challenging - let your MC Members share what in particular is hard for them. Sometimes there are simple solutions (if they don’t have a place to host people, they can invite people to join them for coffee or a meal or even a walk somewhere), and other difficulties are harder (our hearts not really wanting to engage or invite people). Ultimately you are going to encourage your MC Members to take a step of hospitality motivated by Jesus’ hospitality for them, so you don’t have to “solve” things right now. Don’t let this become a hospitality workshop where people are doling out advice. Just try to unearth some of the reasons the people in your MC are not exercising Biblical hospitality. Try to come back to that definition in your discussion - strangers becoming family.

Ask: Who in your life is a stranger who has become family? How did it happen?
This could go very long so don’t let it get too far - but as a person shares it can give an example of Biblical hospitality, or of God bringing people together despite themselves. (God is the unseen Emcee of our relationships, as described on Sunday.)
(CRITICAL SCRIPTURAL READING/QUESTION) Say/Ask: Right after Jesus gives this description of hospitality He tells a parable about the Kingdom of God. Read Luke 14:15-24. How can you see the Kingdom of God in this parable? How can you see Jesus’ hospitality to us, and that He lives out the commands he gave in Luke 14:12-14?

This is mostly a comprehension question. It can be difficult though. You should probably ask it in stages. First compare it to the Kingdom of God. Then make sure people see Jesus Himself was hospitable to us in the “strangers-become-family” way.

The man throwing the banquet is God - and all the guests who reject Him are putting other things in front of God. They are all outwardly successful in some way, and reject Him. Then the man giving the great banquet sends his servants out to gather the poor, crippled, blind, and lame - and bring them into the banquet. This is like God calling all people to Himself, but some reject Him because they don’t feel they need Him. But those who are in need, and who are helpless - God brings them in to the banquet. We are spiritually helpless like them - but Jesus came out to bring us in to the family. And He sends us to go out and bring others in to God’s great banquet!

Ask: How can knowing Jesus has been hospitable to you empower you to be hospitable to others and invite them in to your life?

When we realize that we were strangers to God, but He send Jesus to make us Family it should change us! What a gift we’ve been given. And we will want everyone else to see how great God is. We will see that even those people who are strange, or strangers, to us - whether at church, work, the neighborhood, or the city - have the potential to become God’s chosen family for us, and we can invite them to God’s banquet. It enables us to look beyond our “they’re just not like me” or even our prejudices and seek to bring more people into God’s family and ours.

Ask: On Sunday we were asked to write some names down of someone we would “invite” in hospitality. Whether you were there or not - who is someone you want to invite into your life in some way? How will you do that? How can your MC support you in that?

This is the application and can transition into prayer time. Encourage your MC Members to get specific and practical. And encourage them with small things. It can be someone at church, work, a neighbor, etc. The invitation can be as simple as sitting down to eat lunch with them, walking with them, having them over for or going out to coffee…for some people even introducing yourself is a big step. Find a way for everyone to have the time/ability to share specifically, and pray for you all to develop hospitable hearts in response to Jesus’ hospitality to you. It’s by His grace we can be hospitable!