

# Resolutions

Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Luke 14

You Might Not Have Thought Of

Adapted from *N.T. Wright's For Everyone Bible Study Guide: Luke* by Curtis Bronzan  
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## I. Connecting With One Another

Describe the last party you attended or hosted. Who was invited? What were the people like who attended the party? How enjoyable was it for you?

## II. Introduction to this Study

For the next three weeks we will be thinking together about New Year's Resolutions. Did you make any this year? How about in years past?

Either way, we want to invite you to make three resolutions this year. Perhaps it's three more, perhaps these are the only three you'll make this year! This first week, we want to invite you to resolve to make mealtimes a communal affair, to dine with others.

Luke's Gospel has more mealtime scenes than all the others. If his vision of the Christian life, from one point of view, is a journey, from another point of view it's a party. Several stories end with a festive meal – like, for instance, the parable of the prodigal son in chapter 15. These themes come together in the Last Supper and, finally, the story of the road to Emmaus in chapter 24.

## III. Study the Text

### a. Read Luke 14.1-24.

Looking at verses 1-11, in what ways do Jesus' conversation and parable address those in his day who were jostling for position in the eyes of God?

### b. There is a wider meaning in these first fourteen verses for the first readers of Luke, who was writing perhaps forty years after Jesus' death. Thousands of non-Jews had become Christians – had entered, that is, into the dinner party prepared by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Many Jewish Christians had found this difficult to understand or approve. They were so eager to maintain their own places at the top table that they could not grasp God's design and grace for others.

How can people in the church exhibit a jostling for position like the Jewish Christians of Luke's day did?

### c. The parable in verses 15-24 also speaks to those around Jesus, to those in the church in Luke's day and to the church today. How is the parable a description of what Jesus does throughout the gospel accounts?

### d. What do you notice about the excuses people are giving for why they cannot attend the banquet?

### e. While we can't press every detail of the parable too far, how does this parable speak to the Jews and Gentiles in the church in Luke's day?

- f. What does it mean for the church today to go out into the “streets and lanes of the town” in order to bring people into the banquet?
- g. Why is this often difficult for us to do? How could we be better equipped to do so?

#### IV. Pray

- a. Spent a few moments in silence, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you about what might be keeping you from attending the banquet. Then, spend a few moments hearing from God who you can invite to the banquet.
- b. Pray for those in our community for whom the New Year is an opportunity to start fresh, asking that God would give them the strength to keep their resolutions according to His will.
- c. Lift up our children and students who will be spending time at Forest Home Winter Camp in the coming weeks, asking the Holy Spirit to draw them into a closer communion with the Living Christ.