



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Series: GROW AGAIN IN 2010!

Message: "Pack the House"



PRAYER: Gracious God, we thank you for inviting us to share in your kingdom.

We do not take it lightly that we are blessed and highly favored. Give us compassion for those that do not know you, so that we will be courageous enough to invite them. Make our hearts an open door, inviting every race, embracing rich and poor. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever planned or attended an event where attendance was poor? How did you feel?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The parable of the great banquet is a picture of the kingdom of God. God invites all of us into the party, but not everybody will respond: what kinds of excuses have you heard people use for not responding positively to God's invitation? What was one person prompted to say when Jesus spoke of repayment for kindness to others?
2. In the parable, how did the man let his guests know that the time for the banquet had arrived? What excuses did people make? What was the Master's response? Share with your group how you believe God responds when divine invitations are rejected by us?
3. What happened when all the other people came to the master's banquet? How did the master ensure that the banquet hall would be full? What should we be doing as the people of God to ensure that God's house is packed? Assess your group, when was the last time each of you invited someone to share worship with you, study with you, group life with you?
4. What was wrong with the excuses those invited offered? What's wrong with the excuses we offer to God? How did the character of the banquet change, given the "new" guest list? What types of people do we normally invite to worship, study and share with us? How is the kingdom of God like this banquet? How does our responsibility to God correspond to the servant's role? Whom can you invite to the kingdom banquet? How?

CHALLENGE: Invite somebody to share in worship or study with you in the next week.

SERVE: Set a goal as a group of how many people you will invite to share with you in worship as part of next month's "I Won One" Celebration the fourth weekend of the month.

CHAMPION TIP: Pray for your group members that God will give them insight and favor to invite family, friends and co-workers to share in worship and study and that they will respond favorably.