

APRIL 26, 2026

**BANQUET OF  
BELONGING**  
*meals with Jesus*

The Stranger Belongs

SERMON RESOURCE



# OUR LITURGY

*The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.  
And where the Spirit of the Lord is -  
There is freedom!*

## CONNECT

— 10 MINUTES

- Share about a time when you felt like an outsider or a stranger.
- What made that experience difficult?
- Did anything or anyone help you feel like you belonged?

## REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

### **Key Idea**

Biblical hospitality (“philoxenia”) = love of strangers expressed through action.

Not just friendliness—but costly, intentional, countercultural love.

### **Read Together:**

Romans 12:9-10, 13

Leviticus 19:18, 33-34

Luke 10:25-37

### **Discuss with awareness and without shame, honesty without judgement:**

- Where do you see the difference between being nice and true hospitality?
- Who feels like “other” or “stranger” in your world?
- What do you think is the root of this discomfort?
- What reasons do we use today to avoid people in need?



### **Receive before giving:**

- Why is it hard to admit your own need?
- Read and reflect on Ephesians 2:1
- Can you see yourself as the one left on the side of the road in need of rescue? What does this look like?
- Every person bears God's image:
  - How is this hard to recognize in yourself?
  - What gets in the way of seeing "the other" this way?
  - What do you think Jesus wants to say to you about both of these questions?

Reflect on this quote from Paul David Tripp in *Do You Believe?*:

*"Your worth is never earned and cannot be taken away. To be human is to have dignity and worth because you carry the image of God Himself... The image may be marred, dented, dirty, and damaged, but it is still there. That dignity, that value, that worth is carried by every person who has ever lived. It is not something earned; it is printed there by the Lord Creator. Sin does not have the power to wipe it away. It is the foundational identity of every human being, each one made in the image of God."*

## APPLICATION

— 30 MINUTES

### **Read Matthew 25:31-46**

#### **As a group:**

- How can we take hospitality beyond a greeting at the door?
- What would next level hospitality look like for us?



## **Pray:**

- For hearts that reflect the compassion of Jesus
- For courage to cross boundaries
- For eyes to see people as image-bearers
- For our church to be marked by radical belonging

Ask Jesus to reveal what's in your heart toward people who are different from you.

Ask Jesus to show you the small step He is inviting you to take.

Ask Jesus if there is someone He is inviting you to sit with, talk to, invite into conversation, share a meal with.

# GOING DEEPER

— 30 MINUTES

Sign up for Guess Who is Coming to Dinner, a fun and easy way to engage with hospitality. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

