



Part 3 – From Stranger to Friend

INTRODUCTION – Friends will cost you

LOOK TO THE BOOK:

Jesus' parties

Mark 2:13-17; Luke 14:12-14

- Dinner parties create tangible experiences of community
- Jesus models for his followers and commands his followers to party with the marginalized

Example: W.E.I.R.D.S., Cavey Cabin, Miller Lake

Jesus' priorities – invest in the poor

Luke 10:25-37

- Being religious makes us preoccupied with a kind of purity that makes us pull away from the messiness of life
- To pass by on the other side means we intentionally live in a way to avoid seeing others' pain
- To keep walking means our own schedules and plans are more important than living lives of compassion
- To stop and help will cost us time and money

Example: Mission 2 – Local compassion and southern Africa

Take Out: I'll have that to go please...

1. Let's party! They make turning strangers into friends easier.
Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35
2. Find one person you can welcome into your home and life that needs friendship or help.
James 1:27
3. The challenge is not to invest some time and money, but to give it all.
Matthew 5:3; 19:16-30; Luke 16:9

CONCLUSION – Lego that's fully connected



HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Go around the room and have everyone share something about themselves that is unique to their own journey or story.
2. What is your best memory of a party? How did you feel? Why did you love it?

Look to the Book...

3. Read Matthew 25:31-46. What parallels do you see with James 2:14-18? According to Matthew 25:40, 45, how can we best serve Jesus? How does Jesus' statement that the marginalized are his siblings change your view of them? According to this entire passage, what ultimately reveals the sincerity of our faith and determines our eternal relationship with God?

So What?...

4. Using the Lego illustration, are you connected to an older brother or sister who is investing in your life? Are you connected to brothers or sisters who are sharing your life with you? Do you have people you are intentionally investing in who fit within the basic description of Matthew 25:31-46? If not, brainstorm in the group what you can do to grow in this area.
5. Talk as a Home Church about what it would like to plan inclusive parties as a normal part of your Home Church life. Discuss what that would look like. If you have time and the desire as a group, set the date for your first party.
6. Discuss how the Lord's Supper in Home Church could become a party where Christ is the honoured guest. How might this change how we view the Lord's Supper? Decide as a group how often you want to share it together. Consider starting this week.
7. Pray for God to challenge and motivate us to open our hearts to those in need, to welcome them into our lives and to extend friendship and help as an expression of our love for Christ.