



# THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT BANQUET



**THE DIOCESE  
OF SHEFFIELD**  
Renewed | Released | Rejuvenated



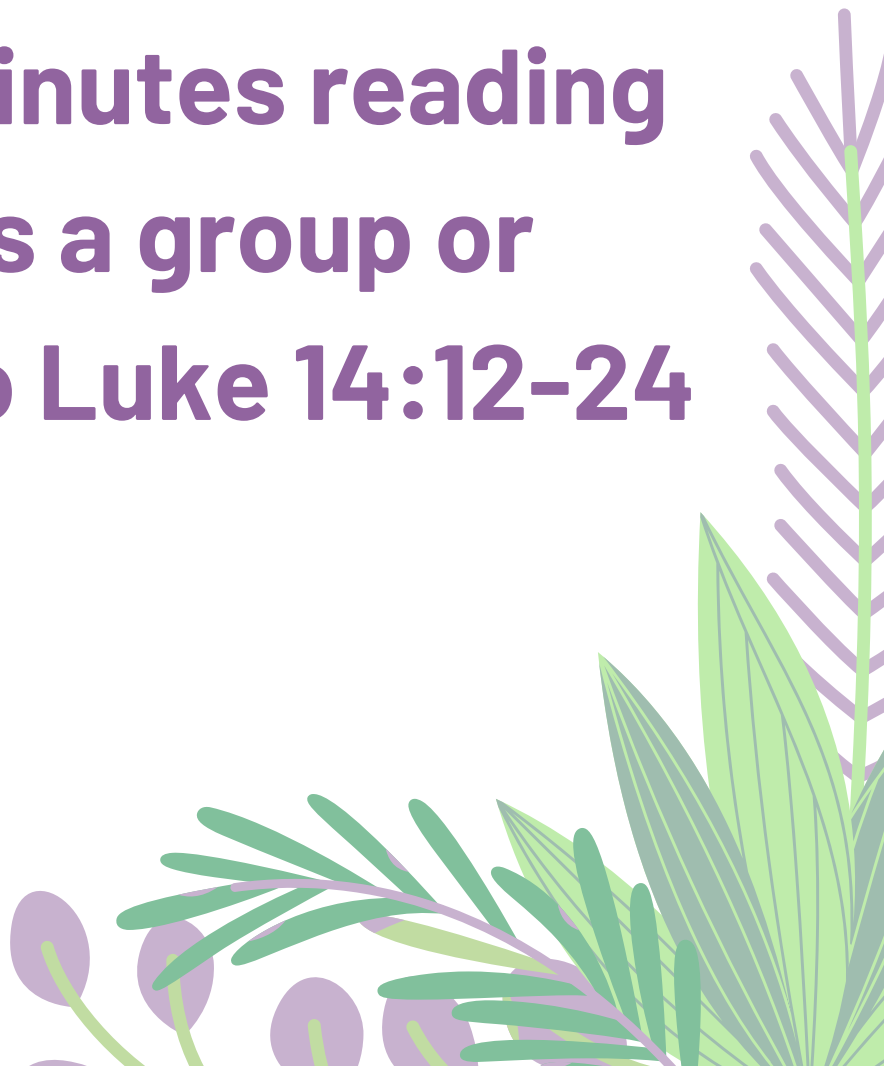
# Prayer

**Spend 5 minutes in prayer. Use this opening prayer as a prompt if you want a place to start.**

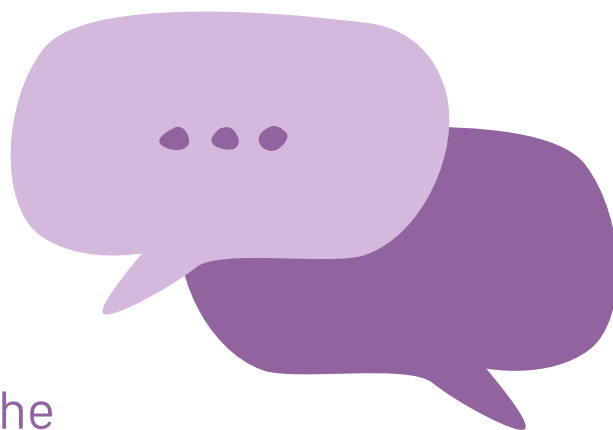
Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see and open our ears to hear where you are in these scriptures. We pray your Holy Spirit living in us would reveal its wisdom to us and point us towards you and how we may be generous and live generously. Amen!

# Reading

**Before you discuss the questions on the next page as a group, spend 5 minutes reading aloud as a group or listening to Luke 14:12-24**



# LET'S *Talk*



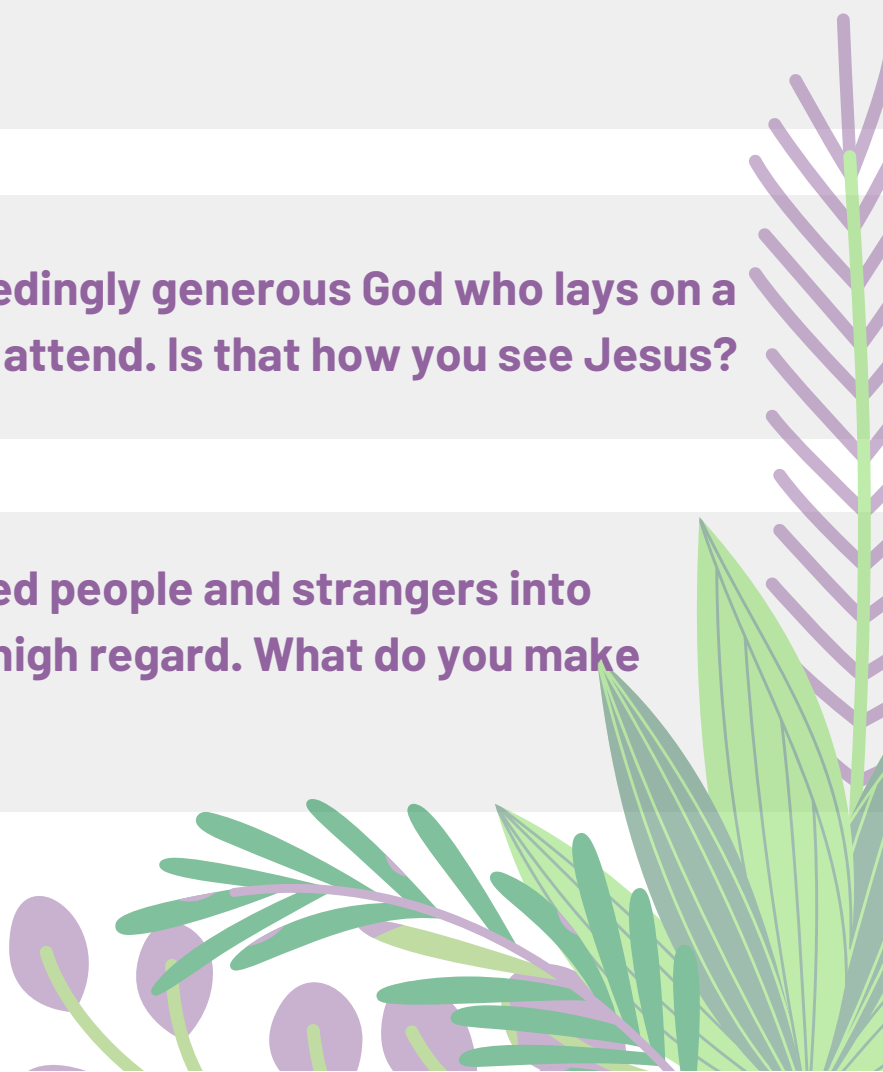
Spend 15 minutes discussing the questions below

**Think of the man who was organising the banquet. How might he have felt when none of his friends turned up?**

**The excuses this man received were about purchases, business and relationships. Do we let this stuff get in the way of our most important relationship – with Jesus?**

**The man is an image of an exceedingly generous God who lays on a lavish banquet and invites all to attend. Is that how you see Jesus?**

**This man invited all disadvantaged people and strangers into his own home and was a host of high regard. What do you make of this man's hospitality?**





# *Reflection*

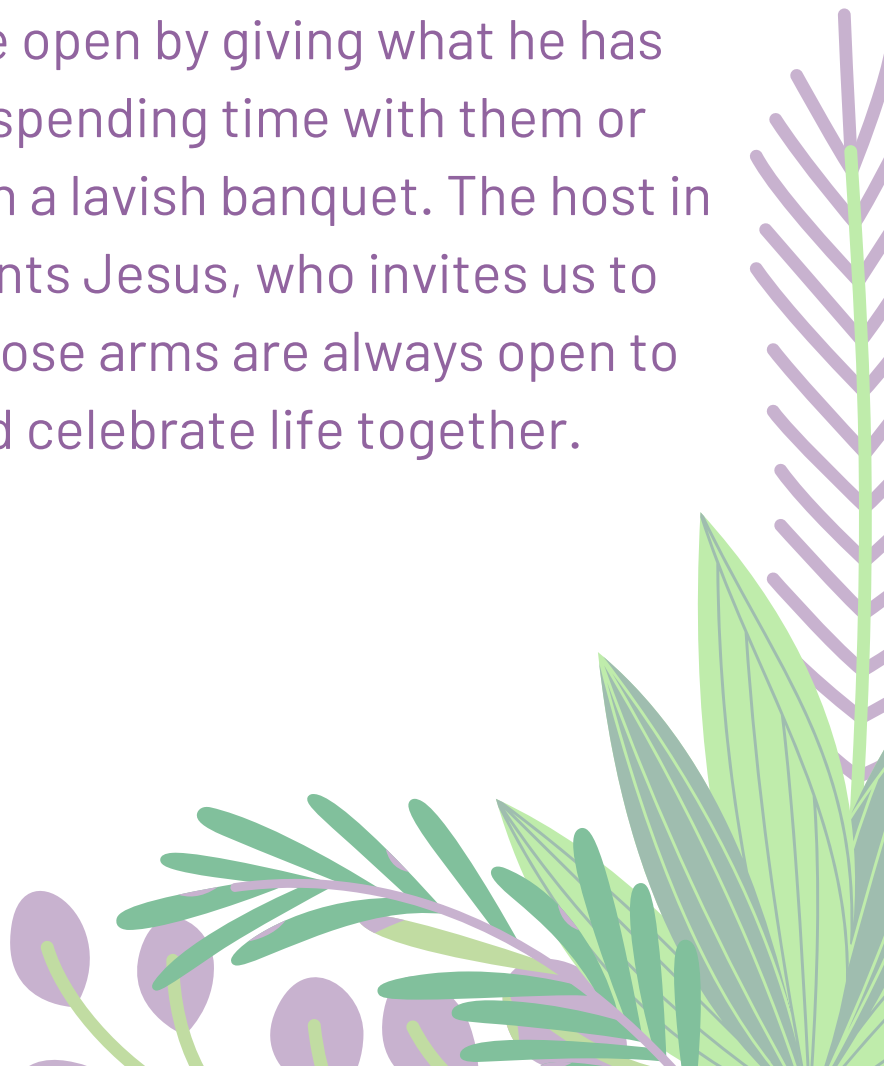


Spend 15 minutes in reflection as a group. As part of this time please read the reflection below and/or listen to the sermon from Bishop Pete Wilcox

# *What does Jesus say about generosity in this parable?*

In this parable, Jesus is showing us through the example of the great host that the practice of hospitality is a foundation for living generously. The host of the banquet's heart is open to others and remains open despite let-downs. The host's home is open to his friends, those who need help, or strangers and is a place of welcome and celebration.

The host's hands are open by giving what he has away for others by spending time with them or spending his money on a lavish banquet. The host in the parable represents Jesus, who invites us to abundant life and whose arms are always open to welcome you and celebrate life together.



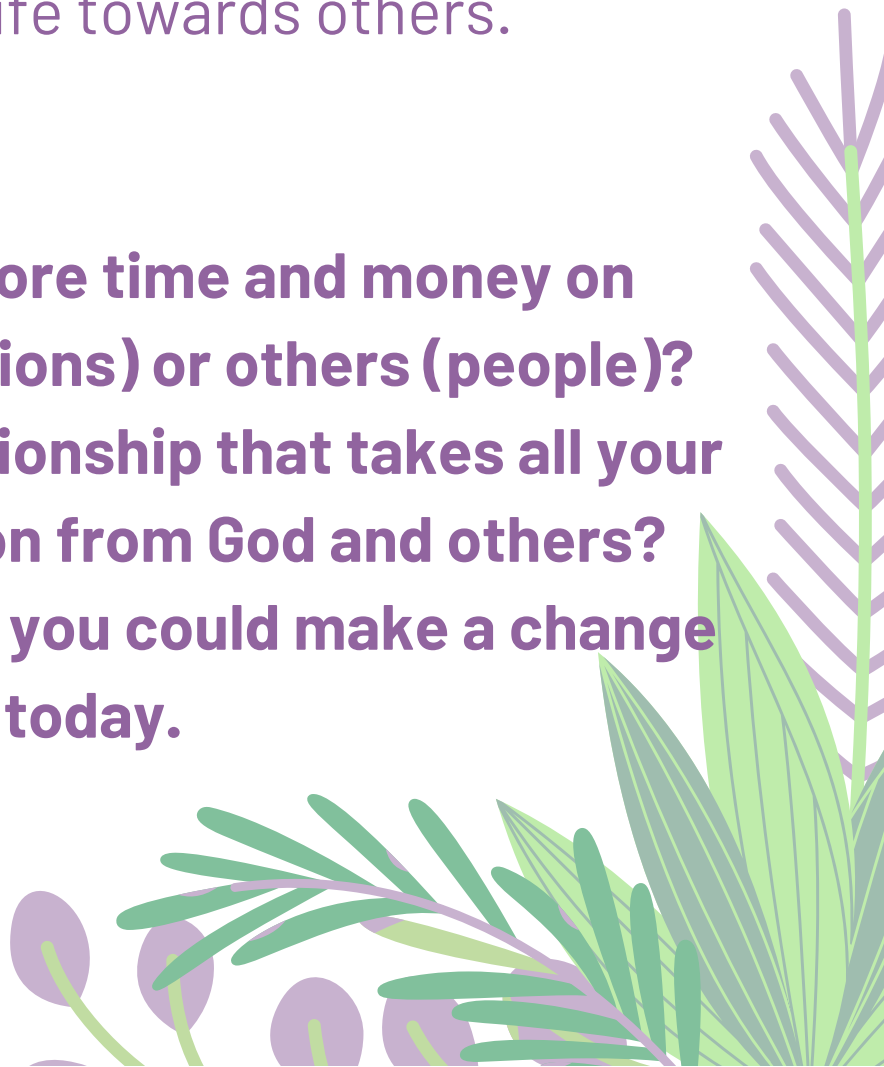


This parable also shows Jesus's generous love and hospitality for all people. Those deemed not worthy to come to the host's table or those wandering the street and lanes not looking for a relationship with the host were invited in as if they were esteemed guests. Jesus as the great host, sacrificed his life on the cross for all of us. This unbelievable generous act of love opened up the way for all of us, not just the chosen few, to have an eternal relationship with Him and the Father.

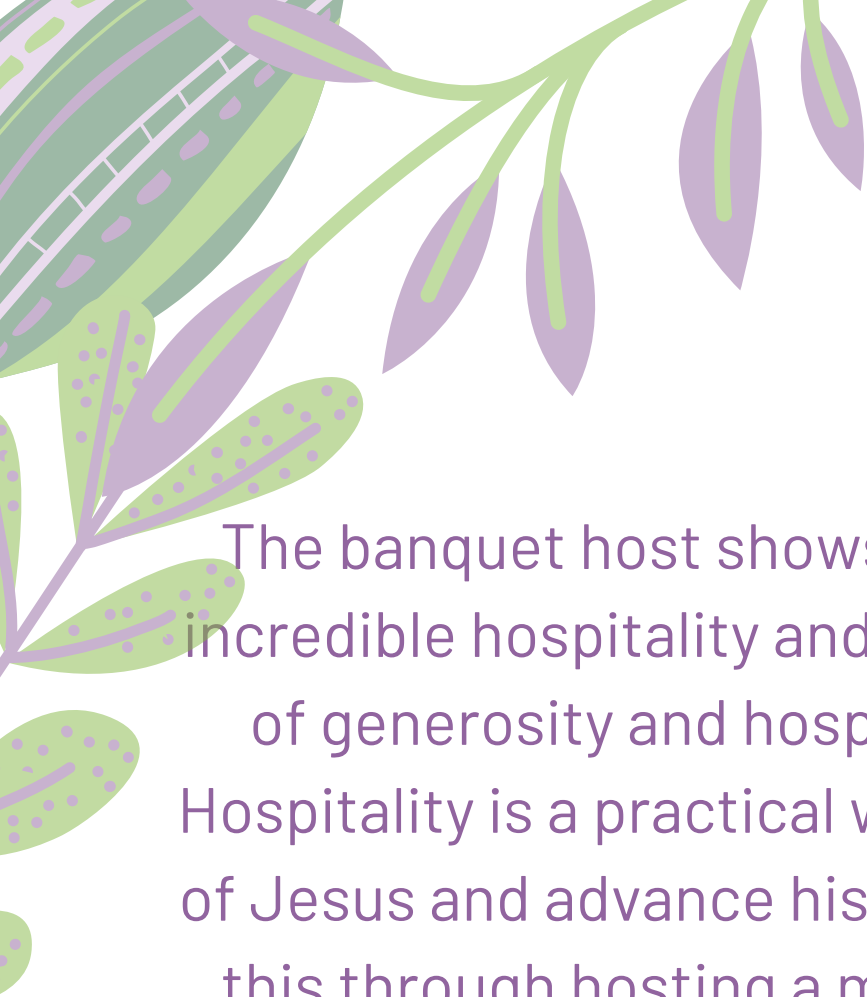
## *How might we respond?*

In the parable, the guests made excuses not to attend the banquet and celebrate and spend time with the host—the reasons centred on possessions (field and oxen) and relationships (just got married). We often make the same excuses and put our possessions or relationships ahead of our relationship with Jesus and a generous, hospitable life towards others.

**Do you spend more time and money on yourself (possessions) or others (people)?  
Do you have a relationship that takes all your time and attention from God and others?  
Think about where you could make a change today.**







The banquet host shows grace, favour and incredible hospitality and inspires a response of generosity and hospitality in our lives. Hospitality is a practical way to share the love of Jesus and advance his kingdom, we can do this through hosting a meal if our situation allows or it could be just simply eating and drinking with others. When we serve and give and create an environment of welcome, grace and friendship – it's a glimpse of heaven right here on earth.

**How could you open up your home more?  
Are there people you could think of to invite  
over for a cuppa or a meal this week? Or  
someone to meet in town for a coffee and a  
chat?**

# Prayer

**Spend 5 minutes in prayer and gratitude. Use this closing prayer as a prompt if you want a place to start.**

Lord Jesus, thank you for the great hospitality you show to us and thank you for your open heart, open table and open hands towards us. We pray to you to help us put the relationship with you and others before the things and people that distract us. We also pray for the gift of hospitality in creating little glimpses of heaven right here on earth. Amen!

