



HOME GROUP MATERIAL
THERE'S STILL ROOM

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I. Introductory Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you most about the “There’s Still Room” Sermon on Sunday?
2. How do you think you are doing in terms of:
 - a) Accepting Jesus’ invitation for your own life?
 - b) Sharing the invitation with others?

II. The invitation of Jesus

Read & reflect on the following Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 55 vs 1-3:**

“The LORD says, “Come, everyone who is thirsty--- here is water! Come, you that have no money--- buy grain and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk--- it will cost you nothing! Why spend money on what does not satisfy? Why spend your wages and still be hungry? Listen to me and do what I say, and you will enjoy the best food of all. “Listen now, my people, and come to me; come to me, and you will have life! I will make a lasting covenant with you and give you the blessings I promised to David.”

- **John 3 vs 16-17:**

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.”

- **Revelation 3 vs 20:**

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him and he with Me.”

3. What, for you, is the most significant thing about Jesus’ invitation to each of us?
4. In one sense, Jesus’ invitation to us is something we accept once and for all when we choose to serve Him and accept His salvation. On the other hand, His invitation to us is not a once-off call, but is rather something He continually issues to us, moment by moment, to seek Him, serve Him, love Him and obey Him. We constantly have to choose to accept His invitation to live the lives He intends for us to live and be the people He intends for us to be.

- a) How do you think we can become more attuned to hear Jesus' invitations moment by moment and day by day?
 - b) What do you think is keeping you from accepting Jesus' invitations in your life?
5. Read Jesus' parable of the banquet in Luke 14. What point do you think Jesus was trying to convey with this story?

- **Luke 14:15-24:**

"And one of those who reclined with *Him* heard these things, and *he* said to Him, Blessed *are* those eating bread in the kingdom of God. And He said to him, A certain man made a great supper and invited many. And he sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, Come, for all things are now ready. And all with one *consent* began to make excuse. The first said to him, I have bought a piece of ground, I must go and see it. I beg you, have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I beg you, have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. And coming up that servant reported these things to his lord. And the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and the maimed, and the lame and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, *it* is done as you have commanded, and still there is room. And the lord said to the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges and compel *them* to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of these men who were invited shall taste of my supper."

6. The guests who were originally invited to the feast made excuses and did not attend. Sometimes, we also make excuses or get distracted and so, do not accept the invitation of Jesus in our lives. What do you think is your biggest distraction in terms of following God and living the life He wants you to live?
7. What will you do about this distraction?

iii. What prevents us from sharing the Gospel with others?

1. The parable speaks about going out into the alleys and streets and inviting everyone to the Master's banquet. According to George Barna's research however, only about 2% of regularly worshipping Christians actually witness to others or will have an evangelical conversation with an unchurched person. Does this statistic surprise you? Why?

2. What do you think prevents us from sharing the Gospel with others?
3. There are probably three main categories of things that prevent us from sharing the Gospel: fear, apathy and busyness. Which of these do you think is your biggest obstacle to sharing Christ's invitation with others?

a) Fear

4. We are sometimes hindered from sharing our faith because we fear rejection, because we fear that our pride will be wounded or that someone may think less of us, because we fear that we are inadequate or unworthy of sharing God's message or because we are afraid of stepping out of our comfort zones. How do you think we can deal with this fear?
5. Do you think it makes a difference to remember that we are *commanded* by God to spread the Word? Why?
6. Henry Blackaby says "You cannot stay where you are and go with God." There is a sacrifice to be made if we want to reach others for God. How do you think you can cultivate a willingness to sacrifice and to go for the sake of the mission?
7. Read and reflect on Luke 19 vs 11-12. Do you think that perhaps our fear to tell others about God really stems from a lack of faith? How do we deal with this?

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." - Hudson Taylor

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth." - John Wesley

b) Apathy

8. Reflect on the following quotes by famous evangelists. What impact do they have on you?

"Someone asked, 'Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved?' It is more a question with me whether we -- who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not -- can be saved." – Charles Spurgeon

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once." - Oswald J. Smith

9. If telling others about God is a command and is something that is so close to His heart, how do you think it happens that we sometimes become comfortable and apathetic about sharing the Word?
10. How do you think we can overcome apathy?

c) Busyness

11. 1 Peter 3 vs 15-16 says that we should always be ready, at all times “to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you...” How do you think we can maintain a sensitivity and openness to sharing the message of Christ even when we are rushed and busy?
12. If telling others about Jesus is the most important thing you can do with your life, do you think the way you are living your life at present reflects priorities that are in order or not? Why?
13. If busyness is getting in the way of your sharing the Word with others, what do you plan to do about it?
14. Read and reflect on the following extract from *Mr Jones, Meet the Master* by Peter Marshall:

“I wonder what would happen if we all agreed to read one of the Gospels, until we came to a place that told us to do something, *then went out to do it*, and only after we had done it... began reading again?

Why don't we do what Jesus says? How exciting life would become were we to begin living according to this way of life! Friends would say we had lost our minds – perhaps. Acquaintances would say we were “peculiar”. Those who dislike us would say we were crazy.

But Someone Else, who had these same things said about Him, would smile, and the joy and peace in our own hearts would tell us who was right.

There are aspects of the Gospel that are puzzling and difficult to understand. But our problems are not centred around the things we don't understand, but rather, in the things we do understand, *the things we could not possibly misunderstand*. This, after all, is but an illustration of the fact that our problem is not so much that we don't know what we should do. We know perfectly well... *but we don't want to do it*.”

15. Our witness is not limited to the words we speak. Our actions often speak far louder than our words. How inviting do you think your life is at present?
16. What is one thing you can do this week to *be* a better witness?

VI. Call to action

Discussion:

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION:

- Challenge each person to do what is suggested in the passage from Peter Marshall's book – to read the Bible this week and to stop, each time they find a directive and to DO IT, before they continue reading. Get feedback about how this went next week.
- As a homegroup, commit to praying for people you know who are unsaved.
- Challenge your group to share the Gospel with one person this week.