



Go Deep Party Pooper or Party Planner?

8.27.17

Optional icebreaker questions:

1. *What is the most memorable party you've attended?*
2. *Who was the "obedient" kid in your family? The "wild one"?*
3. *Where were you during the eclipse last Monday? If you watched it were you with a group or by yourself?*

1. Jesus came announcing a party!

The prophets in the O.T. painted a picture of this party.

Read the following texts and list some characteristics of the party: Isaiah 25:6; Isaiah 2:4; Isaiah 11:6.

Jesus had the audacity to say the party started with him (Mark 1:15; Luke 4:16-21; Luke 17:21).

Read Luke 17:21 in different versions, including King James. What's the difference? In this case, the KJV is the most literal reading. What difference in meaning does the change make?

Read Luke 14:15-16 and Matthew 22:2. How does Jesus describe the Kingdom? What meaning does His description carry?

2. Parties cost money.

According to *The Knot*, the average wedding in 2016 was \$35,329.

Why do you think the celebration at a wedding has gotten so much more elaborate over the last 30 years?

What comes to your mind when you hear or read the word "tithe"? Is it a positive or negative thought?

What do churches usually communicate about the tithe?

Read Deuteronomy 14:22-23, 26-28. What did the writer communicate about the tithe?

To tithe is to give 10% of your income to the church.

Personal question: *Do you tithe? Why or Why not?*

“What is God like?” is a fundamental question. How we understand God affects every other question. How would you answer that question based on Luke 15?

3. Are we party poopers or party planners?

Read Luke 15:1-2.

What is the question that sets up these stories?

Read Luke 15:11-32

Which son best fits your experience? The younger or the older?

Why is the older brother so mad?

What lesson is Jesus trying to teach the Pharisees and us?

Read Matthew 22:10 and Luke 14:21-23.

What strikes you about these parables?

Who are the ones who reject the invitation? Who do they symbolize?

What is the significance of the invitation being extended to all people?

Which ones speak most to you?