



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Sept. 27 & 28, 2025

"How Can We Make Heaven More Crowded?"

[Luke 14:15-23](#)

During this new series, we will dive into some of the most common and poignant questions about life after death. While we have been given the assurance of everlasting life through Jesus, this topic can stir up a lot of emotions. Join us as we see what the Bible has to say.

### PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [hopeonline.tv](https://hopeonline.tv). Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

### GROW

#### Read [Luke 14:15-24](#) – "Parable of the Great Feast"

- Jesus describes God as a banquet host who urgently wants his house full. How does this picture of God's heart for people make you feel—encouraged, convicted, or both? Where do you see yourself in the story: as the one making excuses, the one delivering invitations, or the one finally saying yes? What step could you take this week to respond to God's invitation personally and with gratitude?
- Many who were first invited refused because they were too busy or distracted. How do you see similar patterns in your own life or in today's church? What does this story teach about the danger of letting work, hobbies, or entertainment become excuses that keep us from God? How might you re-order your calendar or priorities to put worship and God's mission first?
- The master sends servants to find the poor, crippled, blind, and lame. What types of people today might feel left out of church or unwanted by God? How can we make our groups, church services, and conversations places where they feel seen and welcomed? What is one tangible thing your group could do this month to intentionally create space for someone who doesn't yet belong?
- Even after the banquet fills, there is still room. Who comes to mind when you think about someone who hasn't yet experienced God's grace? How will you pray for them by name this week, and what's a natural, loving invitation you could extend—whether to church, a group, or simply a meal together—so they can "come and see"?

#### Read [Matthew 28:18-20](#) – "The Great Commission"

- Jesus begins by saying all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him. How does that truth encourage or challenge you? What doubts or fears make it difficult for you to trust that his authority is enough to guide your life? What is one way you can lean into that confidence as you think about sharing your faith this week?
- Jesus commands his followers to "go and make disciples." What feelings does that stir in you (excitement, fear, inadequacy)? How do you think "going" is different from waiting for people to come to us? What might it look like for you to take one simple step toward someone outside your normal circle this week?
- Baptizing and teaching are part of the command. What does that show us about the long-term process of helping others follow Jesus? How has someone in your life helped you grow deeper in faith beyond just an invitation to church? What can you do to invest in someone else's spiritual growth, not just their first step?
- Jesus promises, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." How does that promise give you courage to go the distance when it feels hard to share your faith? Who is one person you could pray for by name and intentionally invite to take a step toward Jesus this month? How could your group support one another in following through on those invitations?

#### Read [Mark 4:1-20](#) – "Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed"

- Jesus says the good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word. How open is your heart to hearing from God right now? What distractions or "weeds" most often keep you from really listening to him? What is one way you could create more space to hear God this week?
- Accepting the word means letting it take root. Why do you think it's tempting to stop at hearing without letting it change us? How have you seen God transform you when you've surrendered to his teaching, even when it was hard? What specific area of your life might need to come under Jesus' lordship in a new way?
- Producing a harvest means multiplying what God has planted. What fruit do you see God already growing in your life (love, joy, peace, etc.)? How does this passage challenge you to keep growing instead of getting spiritually stagnant? What new spiritual practice could you try this month to deepen your roots in Christ?
- Jesus says the harvest can multiply 30, 60, or even 100 times. What would it look like for your faith to overflow into blessing others? Who might benefit if you intentionally shared what you're learning with them? What is one practical step you can take to "scatter seed" this week through words, prayer, generosity, or invitation?

Read [Revelation 7:9-10](#) – “Praise from the Great Crowd”

- John sees “a vast crowd, too great to count” from every nation and language. How does this picture of heaven make you feel about God’s plan for humanity? What hopes or questions does it stir for you about life after death? How could this vision encourage you when the world feels divided or dark?
- The people in this vision are standing before the Lamb in worship. How does that shape your understanding of what heaven is really about? What does this teach you about the end goal of faith—not just getting in, but being with Jesus? How might focusing on that goal affect the way you live this week?
- This scene includes people from every background. Are there groups of people you subconsciously assume won’t be part of God’s kingdom? What does this vision teach about the inclusive heart of God? What is one way you can practice greater humility and openness to people different from you?
- The crowd shouts, “Salvation comes from our God.” How could that declaration reshape the way you talk about your faith with others? Who is one person you can remind this week that salvation is a gift, not something to earn or prove? How will you celebrate and praise God when you see even small glimpses of his kingdom breaking through here and now?

## APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Pray for one:** Write down the name of one person you sense God might be inviting you to pray for this week. Each day, pray specifically for their heart to be open to God and for courage to respond if he gives you an opportunity to invite them.
- **Extend a real invitation:** Take one concrete step to invite someone—whether to church, your small group, or even just coffee—to help them experience God’s grace. Don’t just think about it; actually text, call, or talk to them this week, and follow through by sitting with them or introducing them to others.
- **Go the distance:** Ask God to show you where he’s calling you to step outside your comfort zone to reach someone who might not normally be part of your circle—maybe a co-worker, neighbor, or classmate. Commit to an intentional act of love (serving, listening, encouraging) that builds a bridge and demonstrates Jesus’ heart for them.