

LUKE 14: 7 - 14

<sup>7</sup>Jesus saw how the guests had tried to take the best seats. So he told them:



<sup>8</sup>When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the best place. Someone more important may have been invited. <sup>9</sup>Then the one who invited you will come and say, "Give your place to this other guest!" You will be embarrassed and will have to sit in the worst place.

<sup>10</sup>When you are invited to be a guest, go and sit in the worst place. Then the one who invited you may come and say, "My friend, take a better seat!" You will then be honoured in front of all the other guests. <sup>11</sup>If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured. <sup>12</sup>Then Jesus said to the man who had invited him:

When you give a dinner or a banquet, don't invite your friends and family and relatives and rich neighbours. If you do, they will invite you in return, and you will be paid back. <sup>13</sup>When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>They cannot pay you back. But God will bless you and reward you when his people rise from death.

### You need:

A collection of chairs - humble and elaborate.

eg: old fashioned arm chair, funky bar stool, camping chair, deck chair, office swivel chair, ergonomic chair, kitchen stool, formal dinner chair, large floor cushion (make sure you have some small enough for a child to carry.)

### Script:

G'day, everyone. I've been looking into the seating here in the building and I've decided that we need a few extra chairs. So I've organised getting some extra chairs, and they are out in the foyer. I wonder if there are some volunteers to help me bring them in?

***(Take as many volunteers as you have chairs out to the foyer to bring in the chairs. Either place these along the aisle or across the front of your space. As each person brings in their chair, they sit on it.)***

Now that we have our extra seats, we are going to read the Bible together. (Display text on screen or distribute handouts).

In this part of the Bible, Jesus is at a dinner party. He's giving his disciples (that would be us) some great advice about what 'the go' is when we are invited to be with God.

Now, to help us all get what Jesus is saying we are going to help each other in two ways;

- 1) Whenever the word 'invite'/'invited' appears, we are all going to call out 'Welcome!!!' in our most extroverted, gregarious, convivial, and friendly ways with big smiles and hands outstretched.
- 2) Whenever the words sit, seat or place occur, those who are sitting in our special chairs must all change to a different place.

> Read text of Luke 14:7-14

**Great Job, Welcomers!**

How much inviting and welcoming does Jesus have just in that one conversation?

God's invitation to us to live life to the full following Jesus is a big one. We are very, very welcome.

**And Great Job, Chair Sitters!**

Did you notice how Jesus is paying attention to where everyone is sitting, not just the people with the fancy chairs. Wherever we sit, Jesus notices – and did we read that right? – especially those with the lowest seats, or no seat at all. Jesus is particularly interested in them. As followers of Jesus – it's pretty clear what to do, isn't it?

Be big welcomers with God.

Not worry about our position.

Take particular interest in those with no position.

Do you know? I feel a prayer coming on! Let's pray.

**Prayer:**

Thank you loving God that you welcome us – this whole world is yours, all of life is yours, and you invite us to share in it with you. Thank you.

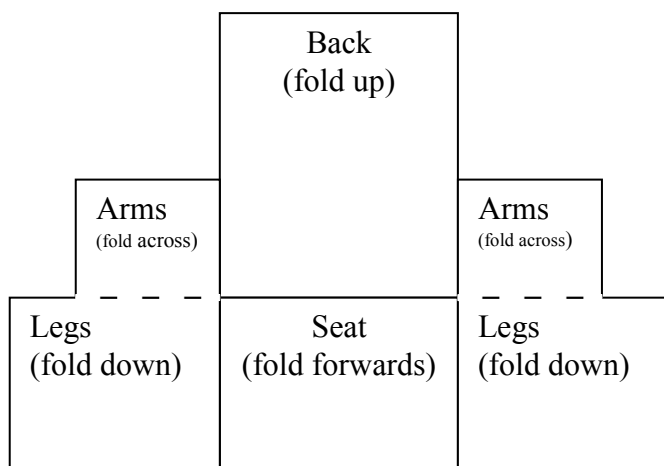
We confess that we get worried about how important we are or how much stuff we have. We realise that this is ridiculous when we are so loved by you. Please forgive us and help us to live freely.

We pray for others in our world and our community who are kept in low places through circumstances and choices that we are all a part of. We know that you care particularly for those on the edges. May we share your concern, Lord Jesus, as we follow your ways of mercy, compassion and justice. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Extension activity: Simple cardboard folded chair**

Provide this basic chair shape cut from card, and a range of textures and craft junk for 'personalising' the design of the chair (fabric scraps, glitter, vinyl scraps, stickers, wooden popsticks, coloured straws). A blob of blutak is a good no-mess way to stick craft junk together. Make a display of your fancy chairs.

Resize this template



Fold to form basic chair

