

**Week 5**

Isaiah 25:6-9 "Gather at the Table"

Begin with prayer

Loving God,

We often struggle to love those that are different than we are. People who look, talk, and think differently than we do. People whose lives and experiences are so foreign to us. It's often difficult

Is the experience of God's forgiving grace *like* a banquet or *is it* a banquet? The witness of Scripture indicates that although the shalom of God's kingdom will mean much more than a well-set banquet table, it may not mean less. Talk about this idea.

Isaiah repeatedly invites us to envision the shalom (the deep peace and realization that everything is right) of God's coming kingdom as a feast, a glorious banquet. How do you picture this in your own life?

If salvation and deliverance from oppression looks like a feast, who will be sitting around the table with you? Can you begin to imagine your roommates, co-workers, or neighbors? What about people you once disliked? Can you see each other as co-image-bearers of Christ?

Do you imagine a particular kind of food at this feast? Care to share the recipe? What if we started preparing the feast already by compiling a list of recipes and shared them with this group? Grow your menu!

