Discuss

1. How do you prepare to host a big party?

2. The servant is sent to call together the guests who already RSVP’d “yes” to the party. Why do you think they say yes and then say no? The oxen will be there tomorrow. How would you feel if you were the master of the party?

3. Why does the master send the servant out two more times to fill the banquet?

4. Some people view themselves as open-minded, but when it comes time to act, they become closed. The first invitees say that they want to go to the banquet, but change their minds. The second round of guests were more open to the invitation, and they experienced all the master had to offer. Why are the second and third round of people more open and responsive?

Apply

1. Are you open to God meeting a real need in your life? What need would you like God to meet?

2. How can you be like the servant, and invite people to check out God? Write down a list of people you know on campus. Do brief listening prayer. Who will you focus on inviting this week?

3. How might you be like the master, and host a new community gathering? Do some listening prayer: what niche community or what friends might God send you to?

4. Tell a personal story from your life (5 minutes)

- Ask them what they have questions about (write these down and ask them to the group along the way)
- Ask the “Discuss” questions.

A few extra questions for going deeper:

- Jesus is telling this parable while sitting at a prominent religious leader’s table, with many important guests. What is Jesus teaching them about God and about themselves?
- What do you notice about the second and third groups that get invited into the party? (Roads and country lanes would include foreign travelers.) What does this reveal about the Kingdom of God? Who are the furthest out, most overlooked people on this campus? How can we go out and invite them in and show them hospitality?

5. Ask both “Apply” questions and invite everyone to respond (15 minutes)

- Just like the master of the banquet in this story, we long for InterVarsity to be a community on campus where more and more people from all backgrounds are coming in and meeting Jesus. Now that you’ve finished the Encounters with Jesus Series, take the next step by planning a party to celebrate what God has done and invite new people in.