

© 2025 by EVERYNATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®),Copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.









PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You that Your Kingdom is not small or exclusive—but wide, welcoming, and full of grace. As we gather today, let us stretch our hearts to make space for others. Teach us how to love beyond comfort and extend the invitation of Your Kingdom with boldness. In Jesus' name, Amen



What's the most unexpected or surprising invitation you've ever received—and what did you do with it?



"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities."

- Isaiah 54:2-3 (ESV)

Supporting Scripture

Luke 14:15-24 (ESV) - The Parable of the Great Banquet

REFLECTION

When the prophet Isaiah speaks of "enlarging the place of your tent," he's not talking about a construction project—he's describing a heart posture. This imagery challenges us to expand our capacity: not just physically, but emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. God's people are called to make room—for more people, for more cultures, and for more of what God wants to do.

In Isaiah 54, God is speaking to His people who had felt barren, small, and forgotten. But He doesn't simply offer comfort—He calls them to prepare for growth. He says, "Do not hold back." That phrase speaks directly to us today. It's easy to hold back—to shrink into what's familiar and comfortable, especially in uncertain times. But God's call is to stretch, to lengthen, to strengthen—even before we see results.

This is the physics of faith: faith moves first. Like planting seeds in faith before you see fruit, or setting a bigger table before you know who will show up. This kind of spiritual preparation says, "God, I believe You're bringing increase, so I will act accordingly."

Jesus echoes this principle in the parable from Luke 14. A great banquet has been prepared, but the original guests all decline the invitation. So the master sends his servant to the streets—to invite the overlooked, the broken, the outsiders. This isn't about lowering the standard of the Kingdom, but broadening the scope of who's invited in. It's not about elite access; it's about radical inclusion. And the servant's role is our role too: to extend the invitation without fear or favouritism.

This is what we call missional hospitality. It's not just being friendly. It's creating space in our lives, our homes, and our church for people to encounter Jesus—especially those who might never walk in on their own. This includes young people who feel sidelined, older generations who feel forgotten, newcomers who feel invisible, and friends who feel unworthy.

To extend and make room is to resist the urge to build cliques or echo chambers and instead build Kingdom family. It's saying, "You're welcome here—not when you get it all together, but right now, because that's how God welcomed me."

So the question becomes: where is God asking you to make room?

Action Points

- Make Space Practically: Choose one area where you can make room (e.g., your table, calendar, or group chat). Invite someone new into it this week.
- Intergenerational Invitation: Partner with someone from a different generation and together invite someone to church, LIFE GROUP, or a social gathering.
- Neighbourhood Mapping: Walk through your neighbourhood this week and pray for the people there. Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment and opportunities to extend God's welcome.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What areas of your life have become too comfortable or closed off? Where might God be asking you to "enlarge your tent"?
- 2. Who in your workplace, neighbourhood, or social circles might be waiting for an invitation to belong somewhere?
- 3. What would need to change about our lifegroup gatherings for someone from a completely different background to feel genuinely welcomed?
- 4. Are there ways our lifegroup accidentally excludes certain age groups? How can we practically make room across generations?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help us stretch—not shrink—our hearts. Give us faith to prepare, even when we don't see the increase yet. Make us brave enough to invite others into what You're doing in our midst. We say yes to being a family that reflects Your heart for all people. In Jesus' name, Amen