



small groups

Winter 2018

Gilead Lake Group
Sunday 6:30 p.m.

Hosts: Tyson and Lisa Franks
867 Gilead Lake Road, Bronson
Contact: David Minard
(517)756-8000

Bronson "B" Group
Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Hosts: Jim and Anna Mae Wickey
389 Bawden Road, Bronson
Contact: Jim Wickey
(517) 369-6229

Coldwater Group
Monday 7:00 p.m.

Hosts: Scott and Jan Carpenter
587 Scott Drive, Coldwater
Contact: Scott Carpenter
(517) 278-3376

Youth Study Group
Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Hosts: Bidwells
617 Gilead Lake Drive, Bronson
Contact: Sharon McMeen
(517) 227-7540

Bronson "A" Group
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

Hosts: Solano and Jennie deAraujo
974 Dewsenberry Road, Bronson
Contact: Frank Cabrera
(517) 369-9783

East Gilead Group
Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Location: BGCC
Contact: Brandon Carpenter
(989) 277-5988



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Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 14, 2018

Take time to check in as a group. You might want to share how the holidays went for your members. What hopes or apprehensions do you have for 2018? Be sure to take prayer requests and then open your time in prayer.

- I. We will take the next two weeks to preview the new year, thinking specifically about God's kingdom and his will for our lives in 2018.

Turn to Luke 14 and read Jesus' parable of "The Great Banquet" [Luke 14:15-24](#). When you hear the phrase "the kingdom of God", how do you imagine God's kingdom? Is the kingdom the same thing as Christianity? How does Jesus illustrate the kingdom in this passage? In what ways might God's kingdom be like a banquet feast?

- II. In Jesus' day, who were "the special guests" invited into God's kingdom? According to the religious Jews, what groups of people were definitely not invited? Today, who do we assume are God's special guests into his kingdom? And, who do we tend to discount as "unworthy" to join us? Be careful here. On what basis are people included or excluded? How can we tell if someone is in or out?
- III. Now go back and read verses 18-20. What reasons were given by people who would not attend? Are these same excuses used today to exclude people from Christianity? Any examples? Jesus said to seek first his kingdom. Like the servants in Jesus' parable, what should we do when people excuse themselves from seeking God and his kingdom? How can we better invite people (needy people) to join us? Is there room at Bethel Gilead for more people? Even people different from us? Explain your answer.

Close your group in prayer. Ask God to convict each of us of the priority of his kingdom and the importance of our assignment to bring others in with us. Pray for someone you know who needs Christ today.



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