



# SMBC

SYDNEY MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

## 2023 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

# the Invitation

LUKE 14-18

**WATCH THE TALKS AT:**

**[vimeo.com/showcase/10304901](https://vimeo.com/showcase/10304901)**

**WITH THE PASSWORD:**

**2023TheInvitation**

A large, intricate black and white decorative flourish framing the title. The flourish consists of symmetrical, swirling lines that form a wide, open arch at the top and bottom, with smaller, more delicate scrolls and flourishes in between. The overall effect is elegant and classic.

# the Invitation

LUKE 14-18

## **WELCOME TO THE SMBC 2023 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE!**

*Throughout our lives, we receive many kinds of invitations. Sometimes we are glad to receive them. Sometimes they draw us into special experiences, special celebrations, or important events that mark significant moments in our lives and the lives of others. At other times, an invitation brings a heavy heart. Perhaps the event is solemn or unwanted. Perhaps it brings up the complex emotions that come along with human relationships that are broken or unhealthy.*

*Perhaps the invitation demands time and energy from us that we just don't have.*

*Invitations can be joyful or burdensome depending on our relationship with the one who has invited us. They can be good or bad invitations based on the event or group we are invited to. They can also be welcomed or refused based on what is going on for us in the moment, or how we are feeling.*

*So today, as we gather for the SMBC Women's Conference, our prayer is that you will hear and respond to the joyful invitation Jesus brings in Luke 14-18. Jesus' invitation extends to the broken and weak. His invitation extends to rebels who are ready to come home. His invitation is for all who have the ears to hear and the hearts to respond. Come and see our good and gracious God who welcomes the small, the forgotten, and the sinners — and who makes them His own. Come to feast with your brothers and sisters in the community of grace. Come to be found. Come as a little child to Jesus' feet with open hearts and joyful anticipation.*

*God's invitation awaits...*

# Talk 1

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## **THE INVITATION: COME TO THE TABLE**

**(Luke 14:1-24) with Kristen Young**

**1.** Unpleasant hospitality (14:1-6)

**a.** Passive hostility

**b.** Active authority

# Talk 1

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## **2.** Turning the tables (14:7-14)

**a.** Posturing and pride

**b.** Unexpected humility

# Talk 1

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## 3. Recognising the true invitation (14:15-24)

# Talk 2

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## **THE INVITATION: THE RISK OF REJECTION**

**(Luke 15: 1-32) with Anna Brotherson**

How does Jesus help us to come to the party?

- 1.** He shows us the Father's heart

# Talk 2

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2. He shows us our own heart

# Talk 2

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Getting ready for the party

– Join the Father in...

– Join the Father in...

– Join the Father in...



# Talk 3

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## **THE INVITATION: TWO STORIES**

**(Luke 18:9-17) with Christine Dillon**

**1.** What do we learn about people from these two story sections?

**2.** What do we learn about God/Jesus?

# Talk 3

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**3.** What do the two stories have to do with the topic of ‘invitation’?

**4.** Who could we invite to hear these stories this week?

# PRAY WITH US...

We thank you Lord because you are the King who invites us to feast at your banquet table and you have provided the forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life we need to dwell in your glorious presence.

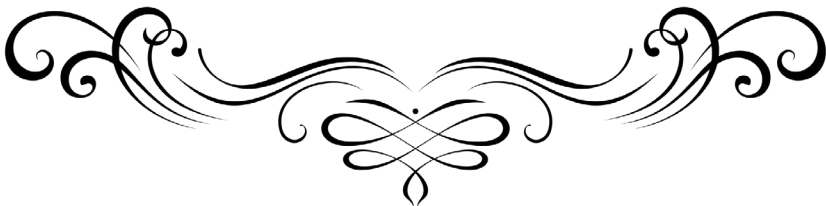
We praise your Holy Name for meeting with us in your Word, through your Spirit, and in the beautiful community of sisters in Christ. You have shown us your Father's heart and exposed our hearts and our need for humility before you.

We ask now that by your power Father, our hearts will remain rooted and grounded in your love, that we will continue to give and receive spiritual courage to and from one another as sisters in Christ and that we will always be ready to share stories of your character and call with those who are living in darkness.

We ask you to work in our lives through the refreshment, renewal, challenge, and encouragement of this conference day so that it will translate into a deeper trust in you and faithful action for your renown. Keep our hearts tender, oh Lord, so that we will recognize and embrace the beautiful transformation that you desire to accomplish in us and that it will be consistently carried on in our lives.

Continue to teach us to listen, to reflect, to pray, to respond to you, our loving Father who stands with arms open wide. We worship you and rest in the warmth of your embrace through our Saviour Jesus, the Messiah,

**Amen.**



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