

## The Feast

**Theme:** Students will experience themselves as the surprise guest of honor at a banquet hosted by Jesus. While at the banquet, students will sit next to Jesus and Jesus will make a toast honoring each of them.

### **Things to know:**

You will need a long table – optional- set the table with a beautiful table cloth, real china, candles, cloth napkins and so on.

Optional- hang streamers and balloons hung around the room.

### **Activity:**

Have the youth close their eyes as you read the following meditation:

*You are in a large room. There is a lot of activity as many people are busy making final preparations for a special event. The table is being set with silver, fine linen, beautiful flowers, and china. Yes, something very special is taking place. You can smell some wonderfully delicious smells coming from the kitchen.*

*Although you can see, hear, and even smell everything, you cannot be seen. You are an invisible observer, not part of these activities. Still, you can feel the great excitement in the room. The people who are setting the table, cooking the food, and arranging the flowers are all very excited.*

*You watch as Jesus enters the room; maybe all of this is for him. But he immediately joins in the work of getting everything ready. You watch as he carries in a big comfortable chair and places it at the head of the table. It is a beautiful chair with a high back and overstuffed cushions. All the other chairs around the table are plain wooded chairs. As Jesus puts the chair in its proper place, he announces that this is where the special guest will sit. You look on as everyone nods approval.*

*Who is the special guest? You wonder.*

*As you watch, the room is transformed before your very eyes, banners are hung, streamers are strung up, everything stands ready for the guest of honor. Those who have been helping momentarily disappear from the room, only to arrive a few minutes later all decked out in their best clothes. Soon other guests begin to arrive. The chairs around the table are filling up. In fact, with the arrival of these last two people, all the chairs are filled except for the big comfortable chair at the head of the table.*

*The guest of honor is due any minute.*

*Jesus peers out the front window and in an excited voice says, "Our special guest is on the way!" Jesus, unable to contain his excitement, begins to do a play-by-play, "I see our guest of honor walking up the street." Jesus quickly surveys the table, smiling with approval. He peers out the window and continues his play-by-play, "Our special guest is coming up the walkway. Now our special guest is standing on the porch. Our special guest is at the door?" The other guests giggle excitedly.*

*Jesus slowly opens the door as shouts and cheers of welcome from those around the table rain down on this special guest. Jesus leads the special guest to the place of honor, but you can't see who it is because Jesus' body is blocking your view. Then as Jesus moves to pull out the chair, you instantly recognize the guest. The guest is you.*

*Jesus is throwing a banquet for you! You are the special guest, the guest of honor. Jesus has arranged this all for you. As soon as Jesus helps you to your place, he moves to his place, which is right next to you, and proposes a toast.*

*While looking you in the eyes, Jesus raises his glass and says, "You are our special guest- my friend, the one I love, the one in whom I delight, and for whom I would rather die on a cross than live without. I pledge to you this day that I will never leave you nor forsake you, and my love will forever be poured out upon you. You are my friend, my chosen one, my beloved, special and unique in all the world."*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What was it like when you realized that you were to be the guest of honor?
- How did that realization make you feel?
- Do you think Jesus really feels that way about you? Why or why not?
- How do these words make you feel, "You are our special guest- my friend, the one I love, the one in whom I delight, and for whom I would rather die on a cross than live without. I pledge to you this day that I will never leave you nor forsake you, and my love will be poured out upon you. You are my friend, my chosen one, my beloved, special and unique in all the world."
- Were you able to receive and believe the words of Jesus? Why or why not?
- Do you believe you are "unique in all the world"? Why or why not?