

## Before the Story:

**Say:** Butch and Nell Green encourage Christians to invite Muslim international students into their homes for holiday celebrations. Many times international students spend these big days by themselves without an invitation from a local host. Sharing holidays together can build friendships and open doors for authentic faith sharing relationships. (Show photo.) Today's story is from the Bible from Luke 14:15-24. Jesus wanted to help us understand the way that God wants the world to be. Listen carefully to the story and see what it tells us about how we should love others.

## Share the Story:

### God's Celebration

Jesus was eating with a group of religious leaders when he told this story.

**Host:** I am preparing a huge feast. It is going to be a big party! I will invite many important guests to come to my party. Servant, go out and tell the guests that it is time to come in for the party.

**Servant:** Okay Master. I will go out and tell the guests to come in. "You can come in for the party now. Everything is ready."

**Invited Guest 1:** I just bought a field, and I need to see it. I can't come.

**Invited Guest 2:** I just bought five pair of oxen, and I'm going out to the field to see how they work. Sorry, I can't come.

**Invited Guest 3:** I just got married, so I can't come. Sorry.

**Servant:** Master, I went to tell them all that it was time for the celebration, but they all had excuses and said they won't be coming.

**Host:** I am very upset. Go into town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame to come instead.

**Servant:** Sir, I've gone and invited them just as you told me to, but there is still more room at the party.

**Host:** Then go out to the roads and the country lanes and get more people to come in so that my house will be full. None of the ones who were invited and made excuses will have any of my celebration feast.

Jesus said, "I have told you this story so that you will know what the kingdom of God will be like. Everyone will be included, not just those you might expect. And the least and the forgotten will be there too."

## After the Story:

1. **Ask:** What did the celebration Jesus described look like? Who was invited? What do you think that tells us about who God loves?



## Learning Activity:

### Enjoy Couscous

*Items needed: recipe ingredients; pot; spoon; bowls; forks*

#### Recipe Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups couscous
- 2 ¾ cups chicken broth or vegetable broth
- ¼ teaspoon salt

1. **Say:** Couscous is a wheat pasta that is popular in many Middle Eastern dishes. It can be served with vegetables or meats. Today we will be making plain couscous to try.
2. Bring broth to a boil in the pot over high heat. Add salt and stir in couscous. Remove from heat and allow the couscous to sit for about five minutes. Fluff with a fork once all the water is absorbed.
3. **Say:** When the Greens invite international students to their home for dinner, they often serve couscous and other foods from the students' home countries.

## Meet the Field Personnel:



Butch and Nell Green are CBF field personnel in Houston, Texas, where they distribute food baskets to refugees, connect churches with refugee families, and partner with Interfaith Ministries to meet the needs of newly-arrived refugees.