The Banquet Hall was a whirlwind of an affair, as we sought to bless the student community of Durham with a lavish meal and the truth of the gospel. Each Bible study followed the path of someone who was broken; the cast ranged from figures such as Ruth to Jesus himself. Despite, having to find our feet in light of a completely new experience in terms of sheer logistics, God was with us and provided for us spiritually, financially and in every other way.

The booklets we printed turned out brilliantly, with members of the team having devoted their own time to writing and crafting the Bible studies. On the night itself, the venue was dominated by a flash of activity; people were cooking, cleaning, setting up and directing people into the venue. The event began with introductions, the meal was served, and the studies were dug into. The questions of identity, forgiveness and the inviting love of God would prove to be the key focus time and time again.

The response to the bible studies were amazing. Table leaders were regularly met with challenging questions and even the nature of how people found out about the Banquet Hall proved to be encouraging. I, personally had someone ask to be prayed for, to know the love of God as I did, which was a bit of a shock, but my experience wasn’t a lone case. Around the room, the truth of Jesus was being discussed and engaged with people who wouldn’t have had the opportunity otherwise. Evidently, this was only possible because of the kind donations from everyone at Emmanuel Church, who backed up us with prayer, encouragement and support on all fronts. Thank you for being invested in reaching out to the students!