

LESSON 10: THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT FEAST

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 Luke 14:15-24

05/10/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 14:15-24
- In This Passage: Jesus tells a parable about a great feast. The man hosting the feast invites many people, but they make excuses not to come. So he invites the outcasts of society, who all come and enjoy the banquet. Jesus wants everyone to come to his feast in heaven because Jesus includes everyone.
- Bible Point: Jesus includes everyone...
- Application: ...so we include others.
- Summary Verse: "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus includes everyone.* Most kids have experienced feeling excluded. But when they do get to be in the "in" crowd, it's easy to forget to sympathize with those on the outside and include them. Help kids see that Jesus includes everyone in his family, and we can, too.
- Think About: In what areas of your life do you feel like an outsider? Turn to Jesus and feel his welcoming embrace.

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to reveal to you which kids in your class may not feel included, and pray that those kids will form great friendships at church.

Quick Tip

- DIG IN has a lot of thought-provoking discussion questions, including questions about stories from kids' lives. These are questions everyone will want to answer! If you have a larger group, let kids share their stories in groups of three or four instead of discussing as a whole class where only a few get to share. You might ask a few kids to report back afterward, but that way everyone is included in the discussion.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers have a party and sing a song.

Supplies

- Bible
- “You’re Invited!” handout (1 per child) ([download here](#))
- crayons
- snacks (1 per child)
- inflated balloons (1 for every 5 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers sing a song and share about who they’ll include this week.



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers make a tasty trail mix.

Supplies

- cereal rice squares
- popcorn
- Skittles
- banana chips
- mini marshmallows
- small cups (1 per child)
- large bowl
- wooden spoon



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Tag.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet ([order here](#))
- party invitation

Easy Prep

- Attach the party invitation to Theo’s paw.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers pretend to pack for a picnic.



CRAFT

Preschoolers make party blowouts with unique mouths.

Supplies

- party noisemaker blowouts (1 per child)
- “Smiles” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- hole punch
- crayons

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the smiles from the handout. Hole-punch the center of the circle on each smile, and then cut on the lines to create an opening to slide the face onto the noisemaker.
- Make a sample craft.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, teach preschoolers how to give “hand hugs” by putting their palms against the palms of a friend and wrapping their thumbs around the other person’s hand.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say “happy birthday” in robot voices.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out that Jesus includes everyone. We’ll hear from the Bible about a party Jesus is planning for us, and he wants everyone to come.**

Share

- Say: **That makes me think of...** Share about the next party you’re planning to go to. It might be a family gathering for someone’s birthday, a holiday party, or a housewarming party.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about the next party they’re going to. Help preschoolers think of ideas; if there are any holidays coming up, have them share what they do at their holiday parties. Or they could talk about what they want to do at their next birthday parties.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Parties are fun—and Jesus’ party is going to the best of all! And he wants everyone to come because Jesus includes everyone. Jesus is an awesome friend, and he shows us we can include others, too.**

Pray, thanking Jesus for including everyone.



Supplies

- Bible
- “You’re Invited!” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- crayons
- snacks (1 per child)
- inflated balloons (1 for every 5 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tips

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today’s lesson during the activity. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).
- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

Talk About It

Say: **Today we’ll find out Jesus includes everyone, and we can, too! Jesus loves for everyone to be with him. He doesn’t want anyone to be left out.**

Share a preschool-friendly example of a time *you* felt left out. You might tell about a party you weren’t invited to that some of your other friends went to.

Ask: • **When have you felt left out?** Preschoolers might share about when two kids were playing together and they wouldn’t let anyone join them.

Say: **It’s no fun to be left out, and Jesus doesn’t want anyone to be left out of being his friend. He wants all of us to be with him.**

Plan and Have a Party

Show the Bible. Say: **In the Bible, Jesus shared that he wants everyone to be included in a friendship now *and* at his big party in heaven. He invites everyone, but not everyone wants to be friends with Jesus or to come to his party in heaven.**

Share about an awesome party *you’ve* been to.

Ask: • **Tell about a great party you’ve been to.**

Say: **Jesus’ party in heaven will be even better than that. It’ll be the greatest party ever! And Jesus includes everyone on the guest list. But in the Bible, he shares that not everyone would choose to come and be friends with him. Jesus told a story to help his friends understand this. Let’s read about that now.** Read Luke 14:16-20, explaining that a banquet is like a fancy party with lots of special food.

Ask: • **What do you think of the people who didn’t go to the amazing party?**

Say: **Let’s see what the man did when the people he invited didn’t come.** Read Luke 14:21-24.

Say: **The man included all kinds of people who weren’t normally invited to parties. That reminds me that Jesus includes everyone, and we can, too! Let’s think of some people we could invite to a party.** Encourage kids to share about people they’d most want to invite to a party.

Say: **But remember, Jesus wants everyone to be included.**

Without naming any names, share about someone you might not normally invite to your home, such as the cashier at your grocery store or the person who serves you coffee at a coffee shop. Then share that you could include that person the way Jesus includes everyone.

Ask: • **Who is someone you can invite that you wouldn’t normally invite?** Help kids think of ideas, such as a child who they don’t get along with, a homeless person on the side of the road, or someone who is different from them.

Give each child a “You’re Invited!” handout. Say: **For a party, we sometimes make invitations. Let’s make invitations now for the people we talked about to let them know that Jesus includes everyone and loves them.** Show kids how to fold the paper into a card. Give them crayons, and encourage kids to

decorate their cards inside and out.

Say: **For a party, we also like to have snacks! Let's eat a snack right now.** Give each child a snack.

Share about your favorite snack to have at a party.

Ask: • **What's your favorite snack to have at a party?**

Say: **Party food can be fun—I imagine the man in the Bible had some really tasty food. And sometimes at a party, there's music!** Invite kids to choose their favorite song from the music you have on hand, and play it. Encourage kids to sing along and dance.

After the song, say: **Sometimes there are decorations and fun games at a party, too!** Pass out the balloons, turn on the music, and invite kids to bop the balloons around.

Then put the balloons away.

Say: **This party is pretty fun, but Jesus' party in heaven will be more awesome than we can imagine! And being friends with Jesus makes our lives better today. Jesus wants everyone to be friends with him because Jesus includes everyone.**

Sing a Song

Say: **Jesus includes us because he includes everyone.**

Share a reason *you* want to be included as one of Jesus' friends.

Ask: • **Why would *you* want to be one of Jesus' friends?**

Say: **It's great you want to be friends with Jesus, because he wants to be forever friends with you! And Jesus loves when you invite others to be his friend, too. But he doesn't stop there—Jesus wants us to include others all the time. He loves when we include people when we're playing, when we show love to someone who looks sad or lonely, and when we include others even when they're grumpy or hard to love. Let's sing a song about that.** Lead kids in singing the following to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching."

Jesus inclu-udes everyone,

Hurrah, hurrah!

Jesus inclu-udes everyone,

Hurrah, hurrah!

Jesus inclu-udes everyone;

He invites us to be friends with him.

And he loves when we invite everyone to be friends with him, too.

Boom boom boom!

Repeat the song several times as kids learn it.

Say: **Jesus includes everyone, so we can include others, too.** This week, give the invitation you made to the person you made it for, and tell him or her that Jesus loves and wants to be friends with everyone!



Sing It!

Sing

Have kids sit in small groups. Say: **Today we found out that Jesus includes everyone, and we can, too. Let's sing our song we learned earlier about including others.** Lead kids in singing the following to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching."

**Jesus inclu-udes everyone,
Hurrah, hurrah!
Jesus inclu-udes everyone,
Hurrah, hurrah!
Jesus inclu-udes everyone;
He invites us to be friends with him.
And he loves when we invite everyone to be friends with him, too.
Boom boom boom!**

Say: **Jesus is such a good friend! Let's thank him for including us.** Lead kids in a brief prayer.

Share and Pray

Say: **We learned that Jesus shows us how to include others. Let's think about someone we can include this week.**

Share about someone you'd like to plan to include this week and what you'll include that person in. Maybe you'll invite someone who's alone to sit with you in church. Maybe you'll invite a new neighbor for tea one afternoon. Or maybe you'll visit an elderly person in a retirement home.

In small groups, have adult or teen helpers repeat the song once, and after the song, ask one child: **Who will you include this week?** Help the child think of ideas. The child could include a sibling by inviting him or her to play a game or include a neighbor by sharing a snack.

Have adult or teen helpers repeat the song in their groups, stopping after each verse to ask another child who he or she can include this week until every child has had a turn to share.

Say: **Jesus includes everyone, and we can, too. Let's ask Jesus to help us include others this week.** Lead kids in a brief prayer.

Say: **I hope you'll *all* be back next week because I want everyone to be included in the new thing we'll get to learn about Jesus!**



Supplies

- cereal rice squares
- popcorn
- Skittles
- banana chips
- mini marshmallows
- small cups (1 per child)
- large bowl
- wooden spoon

Fill Small Cups

Have kids clean their hands. Say: **I have a treat for you! We'll each get a little snack. But let's not eat it just yet, okay?**

- Give each child a small cup.
- Have adult or teen helpers distribute one kind of snack into each cup. For example, if you have 10 kids, two kids will each get marshmallows, two kids will get popcorn, and so on. Make sure each type of snack is distributed as evenly as possible.
- Invite kids to eat only one piece of the snack.

Mix the Snacks

Say: **These snacks are good, but I have an idea that will make an even tastier snack for everyone. Let's mix our snacks together to make a yummy trail mix!**

- One by one, call kids by name to pour the contents of their cups into the large bowl. Say, "[Child's name], **you're included! Come give your snack.**"
- Use a wooden spoon to mix all the snacks together in the bowl.
- Fill each child's cup with trail mix.
- Pray and thank God for your yummy snack, then invite kids to enjoy!

Talk About It

Say: **This trail mix is so good. That's because every snack was included. [Child's name]'s cereal and [child's name]'s marshmallows mix really well with [child's name]'s popcorn and [child's name]'s banana chips. And when we added [child's name]'s Skittles? Yum! Like we included all the snacks, Jesus includes everyone. He loves us and helps us see that we're better together!**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Tag Along, You Belong

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play a Version of Blob Tag

Say: **Today we read a Bible story that showed us that Jesus includes everyone; Jesus invites us all to be his friend. Let's play a tag game where you'll try to include everyone in a big, fun group!**

- Invite a willing adult or teen helper to be the first "It."
- Have It stand in the center of the room while everyone else gathers on one side of the room.
- At your cue, everyone will run across the room to get to the opposite side.
- It will try to tag as many people as he or she can, and anyone who is tagged joins hands with the original It to become a "team It."
- Continue this way with everyone running back and forth across the room and the It team growing.
- Once the It team has grown to about half your total kids, start a fresh round and invite a new willing person to be It.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was fun about including others in the game and making the tag group grow?**

Say: **It's so much more fun to include people instead of leaving anyone out. It's also a great way to show others we care about them when we include them. I feel included when...** Share a few examples of ways friends or family make you feel included and cared for, such as inviting you to dinner or a family celebration.

Ask: • **What are things your friends or family do to include you?** Preschoolers might share about being invited over to a friend's house to play, having friends or siblings share toys or books with them, or simply being asked to be someone's friend.

Say: **When we're included, we know we belong—and that feels safe, fun, and joyful! We'll *always* belong with Jesus because Jesus includes everyone. We can be like Jesus and include others, too.**



Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- party invitation

Easy Prep

- Attach the party invitation to Theo's paw.

Tip

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.

Leader: **It's time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let's call him to our class with a "woof, woof." Ready?** *(Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.)*

Theo: **Hi, friends...** *(Looks sad.)* **I really, really want a good scratch today. I was wondering if you'd scratch my back?** *(Circulates among kids so each child can pet him, still acting a bit sad.)*

Leader: **Thanks for giving a friendly welcome to Theo, kids!** *(Looks to Theo.)* **Now, Theo, will you tell us what's bothering you?**

Theo: *(Lifts the party invitation and then sighs.)*

Leader: **I see you have an invitation there. Is something about that bothering you?**

Theo: *(Cries and snuggles up in leader's lap.)*

Leader: *(Pets Theo.)* **Aw, Theo, tell us what's wrong.**

Theo: *(Sniffles.)* **I...** *(Sniffles some more.)* **I found this invitation at Becky Beagle's house.** *(Sniffles.)* **She was invited to a party for one of my classmates, but I wasn't.** *(Begins to weep again.)*

Leader: **I'm sorry, Theo.** *(Looks to kids.)* **Friends, I think Theo could use a big hug from all of us right now. Will you help me show Theo some love?** *(Invites kids to each hug Theo.)*

Theo: *(Sniffles.)* **Thank you, friends. That makes me feel a little better.**

Leader: **That's good, Theo. We don't want you to be sad, and many of us have felt left out at some time. That's no fun. But what we're learning today might help you feel a little better, too.** *(Invites and helps kids to share the Bible point, Jesus includes everyone.)*

Theo: *(Sniffles.)* **Jesus invites everyone to his parties? He wouldn't leave me out?**

Leader: **Jesus loves you, Theo, and he includes everyone.**

Theo: *(Sniffles, and looks to kids.)* **Would you include me if you had a party?**

Leader: **We're also learning that we can include others like Jesus does.**

Theo: *(Begins to perk up.)* **I'd include you, too. And I'd include Jesus.**

Leader: **That's good, Theo. Jesus loves when we include others. Jesus wants us to be friends with everyone!**

Theo: *(Smiles.) Thank you for telling me about Jesus. That makes me feel a lot better. Do you think we could all play together now? I'll include everyone!*

Leader: **I think that would be okay for a few minutes, Theo.**

Theo: *(Hops excitedly.) Okay, let's practice including each other while we play—because Jesus includes everyone! (Leads kids to play in your room, as time allows, encouraging children to include one another while they play.)*

Leader: **I think it's time for us to move on to another activity, Theo. Would you like to help the kids clean up?**

Theo: ***I would!*** *(Leads kids to clean up the toys they played with.)*

Leader: **Thank you to all of you for being good helpers!**

Theo: *(Looks to kids.) I had fun playing with you and working together with you to clean. I'll see you again soon!*

Leader: **Okay, Theo! Let's all give Theo a "woof, woof, goodbye"!** *(Leads kids in a "woof, woof, goodbye," and then places Theo out of sight.)*



Play a Game

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus includes everyone, and that means Jesus won't turn anyone away who wants to be his friend. Let's play a game to see what it's like to include everyone!**

- Have everyone sit in a close circle.
- Lead kids in the following simple chant, clapping an easy rhythm to guide the game.
- You'll start with the person to your left, clapping as you say, "We're going on a picnic and we'll invite...[say person's name]!" Lead everyone in smiling and pointing at the person you just invited.
- Then guide the invited person in responding with, "I'll go to the picnic and I'll bring...[a favorite food or drink]."
- Practice the call and response a couple of times with an adult or teen helper first to help preschoolers see how the game works.
- Give preschoolers a minute to think about their favorite food and drink so they'll have something in mind when it's time to say what they'll bring to the picnic.
- Go around the circle for as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Why did you like that *everyone* here today was invited to the picnic?**

Say: **It can make our hearts so happy when others remember us and invite us to do fun things.**

When people invite us, we know they care about us.

Share an example of a time *you* were invited to do something fun with friends, such as going to watch a movie, and how the invitation let you know those friends care about you.

Ask: • **What are other fun things you've been invited to, such as a play date at a friend's house?**

Preschoolers will likely share about birthday parties, play dates at a park, a trip to a museum or aquarium with friends, or church.

Say: **It's wonderful to be invited and included, and we have a friend who *always* includes us—Jesus! Jesus includes everyone in being his friend, so we can invite and include others, too, and show we care.**



Supplies

- party noisemaker blowouts (1 per child)
- “Smiles” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- hole punch
- crayons

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the smiles from the handout. Hole-punch the center of the circle on each smile, and then cut on the lines to create an opening to slide the face onto the noisemaker.
- Make a sample craft.



Make Unique Faces

Say: **Today we found out that Jesus includes everyone, and we can, too. In the Bible, Jesus told a story about a man who included all kinds of people at his party. Jesus told the story to explain that he wants everyone to join him in a friendship! Let's make some party noisemakers that will remind us that the man invited all kinds of people to his party and that Jesus includes everyone.**

- Show kids the premade craft, slipping each smile onto the noisemaker one at a time to show what each one looks like.
Say: **We'll make four different faces to show that we can include all different kinds of friends.**
- Give each child all four faces from the handout, and allow time for kids to color each one.
- As children finish coloring, have adult or teen helpers show kids how to slide each smile onto the noisemaker to make different faces.
- Allow time for kids to play with their noisemakers.

Sing and Party

Invite kids one at a time to show off each of the smiles they made. As children share, invite the other children to point out things they like about the smiles.

Say: **Let's have a party! We'll sing and use our noisemakers to have a fun time.** Make sure each child has one of the smiles on his or her noisemaker. Lead kids in singing the following to the tune of “The Ants Go Marching” as they dance. During the “boom boom boom” part, have them blow their noisemakers.

**Jesus inclu-udes everyone,
Hurrah, hurrah!
Jesus inclu-udes everyone,
Hurrah, hurrah!
Jesus inclu-udes everyone;**

He invites us to be friends with him.

And he loves when we invite everyone to be friends with him, too.

Boom boom boom!

Sing the song several times, each time having kids change the smile that's on the noisemaker.

Say: **How fun it is to party—and to include all our fun smiles in the party! Jesus loves to include everyone—not just in parties, but in friendship. Jesus wants to be friends with everyone, and we can include everyone, too!**

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