

LESSON 10: THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT FEAST

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 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

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids are invited to a banquet and they invite outcasts.

Supplies

- Bible
- “Invitations” handout (1 for every 2 kids) (download [here](#))
- banquet-like snacks, such as crackers, cheese, and strawberries
- pitchers of water
- cups
- plates
- napkins
- paper
- markers
- plastic tablecloth (optional)

Easy Prep

- Cut each “Invitations” handout in half.
- Set up a banquet by setting a table with cups, plates, and napkins. Place snacks and pitchers of water on the table. For an added touch, decorate your banquet table with a tablecloth.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids accept invitations from Jesus.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids make a tasty trail mix.

Supplies

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



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Tag.

Supplies

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



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids pretend to pack for a picnic.



CRAFT

Kids make party blowouts with unique mouths.

Supplies

- party noisemaker blowouts (1 per child)
- “Smiles” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- hole punches (1 for every 5 to 6 kids)
- crayons
- child-safe scissors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- “Carl’s Party” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

**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.



Welcome

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids double high-five four friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say, “Three cheers for our birthday friends! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! It’s your birthday!”
- 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 small groups, have kids share about the next party they’re going to. Help kids 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
- “Invitations” handout (1 for every 2 kids) (download [here](#))
- banquet-like snacks, such as crackers, cheese, and strawberries
- pitchers of water
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- plates
- napkins
- paper
- markers
- plastic tablecloth (optional)

Easy Prep

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Receive an Invitation to a Banquet

Say: **In today’s Bible story, Jesus told a parable. A *parable* is a story Jesus told to make a point. Today’s parable is about a banquet, or fancy party, someone was having.** Motion to your banquet table and show all the tasty treats you’ve brought to share. Talk about how you were thinking of the kids and what they might like as you provided each of these special foods.

Say: **Let’s see what happened in this story.**

Read Luke 14:16-20.

Say: **Those are some silly excuses! I’m going to invite some of you to my banquet. When I do, come up with the silliest excuse you can for why you can’t come.**

Distribute invitations to about one-third of the kids. As you distribute them, wait for each child to tell you his or her silly excuse before moving on to the next child.

After you’ve distributed about one-third of the invitations, pause. Say: **No one wants to come to my banquet!**

Ask: • **Tell about a time you really wanted someone to come to a party or fun event, but that person didn’t make it.** Share your own story first.

• **Tell about a time you had to miss out on a fun party. What was your excuse?** Share your own story first.

Say: **Let’s see what happened next in the Bible.**

Read Luke 14:21-23.

Have some of the kids who have not received an invitation pretend they are blind. Others can be crippled, and some can pretend to hide behind hedges. As kids accept your invitations, have them sit at the banquet table. (If you have kids with disabilities, you may need to explain that in Bible times, people with disabilities were treated as unimportant. Make sure kids know they’re *not* second rate!)

At first, don’t let the kids who rejected your invitation come, and begin the banquet with just the second group.

Then say: **In Jesus’ story, the people who said no to the invitation missed out on the party. But since we’re all friends here, you can come.** Let those who rejected your original invitation come.

Enjoy the Banquet

Have kids enjoy the banquet food. As they eat, lead kids in this discussion.

Say: **Remember, a parable is a story that makes a point. Jesus told this story to a group of religious leaders called the Pharisees. The Pharisees thought God was only for some people...pretty much just them. But they hated Jesus!**

Ask: • **What do you think Jesus wanted to show the Pharisees? Explain.**

Say: **Jesus includes everyone. Jesus was making the point that *he* is the invitation to be in God's family. The Pharisees were rejecting the invitation, but Jesus was inviting *everyone* to be a part of the family of God. Jesus includes everyone, and he would've loved to have the Pharisees accept his invitation. But all they could think about was how much they hated Jesus.**

Invite the Outcasts

Say: **Jesus includes everyone, so we include others. Let's think about people we could include.**

Set out paper and markers, and have kids spread out. Say: **Think of someone you've seen who didn't seem to fit in. It might be a new kid at school or someone no one else seems to like. Draw a picture of that person. Don't let anyone see your picture.**

After kids complete their drawings, have them arrange the drawings around the edges of the room, facedown. Then gather kids in the center of the room.

Say: **When we include people like this, we're showing Jesus to those people! When we're kind, caring, and accepting of everyone, we show with our lives that Jesus includes everyone. Let's "invite" these outcasts to be a part of our group.**

Have kids collect their drawings and bring them to the center of the room, laying them facedown.

Pray: **Jesus, help us find ways to show your love and acceptance to the people we drew. In your name, amen.**

Say: **Jesus includes everyone, so we include others. We can include others in fun things we're doing. And best of all, we can invite others to be part of God's family, because Jesus wants everyone to RSVP "yes"! Take your drawing home as a reminder to watch for ways to include that person this week.**



Accept Invitations

Say: **Jesus includes everyone.** *You're invited to his banquet in heaven someday. Jesus invites you to be part of so much right now, too! Hold your hands out in front of you as if someone is about to hand you a gift. Holding your hands that way can be a sign that your heart is ready to accept these invitations from Jesus.*

Read the following invitations, pausing after each one for silent prayer.

- Jesus invites you to his forgiveness. Talk with him about that.
- Jesus invites you to receive his love. Talk with him about that.
- Jesus invites you to leave your troubles with him. Talk with him about that.
- Jesus invites you to experience his joy. Talk with him about that.
- Jesus invites you to have a rich and satisfying life. Talk with him about that.
- Jesus invites you to be his friend. Talk with him about that.

Wrap Up

Pray: **Jesus, thank you that you include us!** Help us include others and invite them to be part of all the amazing things you've invited us to. In your name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



Supplies

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

Fill Small Cups

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?** Kids 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.**



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 kids see how the game works.
- Have kids try to remember what the other kids said before them and repeat all the things those kids said on their turns.
- 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?**

Kids 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 punches (1 for every 5 to 6 kids)
- crayons
- child-safe scissors

Easy Prep

- 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 a “Smiles” handout.
- Have kids cut apart the smiles from the handout.
- Show them how to 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.
- Have kids color the faces. As they finish coloring, show kids how to slide each smile onto the noisemaker to make different faces.
- Allow time for kids to play with their noisemakers.

Talk 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.

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: **Let’s share about ways we’ve already included others, and we’ll “party” for each thing someone shares by blowing on our noisemakers.**

Start by sharing about one time you included someone. After you share, kids will all sound their noisemakers.

Have kids take turns sharing their own examples and sounding their noisemakers after every example. If kids run out of examples, have them share ways they can start including their siblings, neighbors, and classmates.

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!



Supplies

- "Carl's Party" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch "Carl's Party"

Ask: • **What's the most fun thing you've ever done at a party?**

Say: **In our Bible story, a man threw a party. But the original guests couldn't come, so the man invited everyone! Let's see what our orange friend Carl does when he needs party guests.**

Watch "Carl's Party."

Ask: • **What's one thing you'd be sure to include if you were throwing a party and had amazing news to share?**

• **Carl's friends had some strange excuses to miss his party. What are some reasons people don't want to be Jesus' friend?**

• **What did you think of Carl's news?**

Say: **In our Bible story, we learned that Jesus includes everyone. Everyone's invited to Jesus' party. That means we have awesome news to share...way better than Carl's news about his new tie. We can spread the invitation for everyone to be a part of Jesus' family!**