

# Life of Christ

## The Invitation

Matthew 22:1-10

### Younger Verse

We will share a meal together as friends. Revelation 3:20

### Older Verse

I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Revelation 3:20

### Lesson Goals

Understand Jesus' story about the wedding invitation  
Learn that God invites all people to be with Him in Heaven  
Recognize that we can be God's messengers and share the invitation

### Welcome Time

Have you ever invited your friends to a party and they didn't come? How did that make you feel? Today we will learn about a party that God wants everyone to attend.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Does anyone remember last week's lesson? It was a story Jesus told about some selfish workers. Jesus was teaching about the way people were going to treat Him on the cross.

In today's lesson, Jesus told another story about God's Kingdom. The story was about a very special banquet. Back in Jesus' time, when a couple got married, it was a gigantic party. People were invited from everywhere, and they celebrated for a WEEK! It was a very special time to honor the couple.

Remember, back in Jesus' time, they did not have a postman that delivered mail to people. To get messages to people, they would send messengers to give a note to someone.

The king's son was getting married. So the king wanted to have a huge feast, or banquet, for his son and new daughter-in-law. He told his servants to give invitations to many people about the special feast.

Instead of coming to the wonderful feast, all the people ignored the invitation. Can you believe it? They did not come to the party!

So the king sent out more servants to tell the people to hurry and come, that the food was ready. But again, the people didn't respond to the invitation. They just stayed where they were. Some of the people were even mean to the servants!

The king was very upset. He could not believe that his friends were so rude and impolite. But he *had* to have guests at the party. What could he do?

Did the king give up or cancel the banquet? NO! He told his servants to go into the streets and invite anyone and everyone that they saw. The servants invited both good people and bad people to the wonderful banquet.

Sure enough, the room was filled with guests!

God is the king in the story. He invites all people to be in His family. But sadly, many people do not respond to His invitation. So He sends out messengers—people who tell others about Jesus. They tell others about Jesus and how they can be with God in Heaven. Some people may respond and join God's family.

God is so happy when more people accept His invitation! He wants everyone to be in Heaven. We will all celebrate together there!

If you have never said yes to God's invitation, what are you waiting for? God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. When we open the door of our hearts, Jesus will come in and be with us forever. We can know that we will be with Him in Heaven. Let's say yes to God's invitation!

#### Review Questions

1. How did the people respond to the King's wedding invitation? (No one went.)
2. Who did the king invite next? (Anyone and everyone)
3. What does God invite us to do? (Join His family; be with Him in Heaven)
4. How can we be God's messengers? (Invite other people to come to God)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God that He allows all of us to be His children. Pray that we will be His messengers and let others know about His love.

#### Life Application

In Jesus' final words to His disciples, He told them to go into all the world and make disciples. He wants all of His followers to invite others into His family. We have a job to do!

Can you think of ways to invite others to God's party in Heaven? First, we need to make sure that WE have accepted God's invitation. We do this by asking Jesus to come into our hearts.

When we have received God's gift of eternal life, we will be excited! We will want others to experience God's love, peace, and joy.

Do you know someone who doesn't know Jesus? Invite them to Bible Study. Pray with them. Share Bible verses you have learned with them. Tell them what God has done in your life. Then they will want to share in the excitement and be in God's family, too!

Planning for Next Lesson  
The Greatest Commandment  
Matthew 22:34-40

## Preschool Lesson for The Invitation

One day, Jesus told a story to people who were listening.

Once upon a time, there was a king. He had a son that was getting married. The king was so excited that he wanted to have a wonderful dinner to celebrate the new married couple.

The king sent out invitations to all his friends. He told them that a delicious banquet or party was going to be held to celebrate.

When it came time for the celebration, no one came. Can you believe it? The king waited and waited for his friends to come, but no one showed up. The king was very, very sad.

Instead of giving up, the king sent his messengers to go and find other people to come and celebrate. The messengers went all over town and invited all kinds of people to come. It was so exciting. The messengers invited everyone they saw to the feast.

Sure enough, everyone came and the room was filled with people. They all enjoyed the party and ate all the delicious food.

Jesus told this story to help us see that God loves *everyone* and wants all people to love Him. One day, there will be a big party in heaven and God wants us all to be there to celebrate!

Pray and Sing “Come, and Go with Me.”

## **Hands-on Activities for The Invitation**

Make “wedding” invitations. Bring glitter and other decorations. Let the kids have fun decorating the cards. Invite people to church.

Bring plastic rings for everyone or make them out of embroidery thread.

Blow bubbles like is often done at weddings.

Make bouquets of flowers out of tissue or tissue paper.