



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 5: Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Feast

Scripture

Matthew 22:1-14
Revelation 19:5-9

Memory Verse

We take great
delight in the Lord.
We are joyful
because we belong
to our God. He has
dressed us with
salvation as if it
were our clothes. He
has put robes of
godliness on us.
Isaiah 61:10a (NIRV)

Lesson Goals

Learn that everyone
is invited to partake
in salvation.

Learn that not
everyone will accept
that invitation.

Understand that we
must come to God
on His terms, not
our own.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

What do you remember about the timing of our lessons so far? (We are talking about the week before Jesus' death.) Do you remember which books of the Bible we are getting our information from? (The gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) What have you learned so far? (Mary anointed Jesus' head and feet at the dinner that Simon gave in Jesus' honor. Then, Jesus entered Jerusalem to the shouts of the crowd. When He went into the temple, He became angry because the people were buying and selling and exchanging money instead of praying and worshipping God. Jesus ran them out of the temple. Then He healed people and taught them by using parables, or stories.) What two parables did we talk about last week? (The first story was about two sons. One obeyed his father and one didn't. The second story was about a vineyard owner who rented out his land. The renters mistreated everyone who came to collect the harvest for the owner and they killed his son, hoping to have the land for themselves.) A parable is a story with a specific meaning to it. What was the meaning of these two parables? (Just saying you serve God isn't enough. Obedience is necessary.)

"Jesus responded by telling still more stories." (Matthew 22:1 MSG) One story in particular was about a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. The king sent out servants to invite people to the wedding feast. According to the custom of that day*, they said no to the invitation. You see, it was a privilege to talk someone into accepting your invitation.

"He sent out another round of servants, instructing them to tell the guests, 'Look, everything is on the table, the prime rib is ready for carving. Come to the feast.'" (Matthew 22:4 MSG) So, when this second invitation came, it was generally accepted.* Not this time, though. Those who had been invited paid no attention to the king's servants. Ignoring the invitation, "one went away to his field. Another went away to his business. The rest grabbed his servants. They treated them badly and then killed them." (Matthew 22:5-6 NIRV)

You can probably imagine that the king in our parable was furious! He punished the murderers, but there was still a wedding feast to be enjoyed. The king spoke to his servants and said, "Dinner is ready, but those who have been invited are not worthy to eat with us." So, the king instructed his servants, "'Go out into the busiest intersections in town and invite anyone you find to the banquet.' The servants went out on the streets and rounded up everyone they laid eyes on, good and bad regardless. And so the banquet was on—every place filled." (Matthew 22:9-10 MSG)

The king came in to look over all the people who filled the banquet hall. He noticed one, though, who wasn't dressed as he should be. "And he said, 'Friend, how did you come in here without putting on the [appropriate] wed-

Application

"Many are invited, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14 NIV) God is offering you an invitation. He loves you so much that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who chooses to believe in Him will be accepted. (John 3:16)

Will you accept the invitation?
Receiving the invitation makes you pretty special, but the promise of eternal life comes only to those who accept and obey.

The acceptance can't be on your terms, though. You can't serve God and yourself or any other at the same time. Jesus is the only way to God, not Buddha, not Mohammed, not Mary. Good works won't get you to heaven and neither will persecuting unbelievers.

So I'll ask you again, Will you accept the invitation? On whose terms? The only way of peace and hope is on God's terms.

ding garment?" (Matthew 22:12 AMP) The man was speechless, but, because he wasn't dressed properly, the king had him thrown out into the darkness. Jesus ended his parable with this statement, "Many are invited, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14 NIV)

What did we say a parable is? (A story with a meaning) So, if this story has a meaning, let's see if we can uncover that meaning.

Who is the king in the story? (God) What is it that the king, God, wants to do for His Son? (He wants to give a wedding feast.) Who is God's Son? (Jesus) What in the world could the wedding feast mean? Well, when we look at Revelation 19:5-9, we realize the Jesus is the bridegroom and the church, or followers of Jesus, are considered His bride. The wedding feast is a picture of Jesus' followers being joined with Him in Heaven.

The king offering an invitation through his servants is a picture of God's invitation of salvation to everyone. The invitation is offered through God's servants when they tell others about the good news of Jesus. Many are invited to follow God just as many were invited to the king's wedding banquet for his son.

Attendance at the wedding banquet means something else. Those in attendance are the few that are "chosen" as mentioned in verse 14. It is not that the king wanted no one else at the banquet; the chosen are those who accepted the invitation. Which leaves us with one last question. Who was the man in the story who came to the banquet ill-dressed and who was thrown out into the darkness? That man symbolizes people who are invited just like everyone else. The difference is that people like him try to come to God on their own terms. Jesus is the only way to God (John 14:6) and only those who are truly obedient to Him will be accepted into heaven. All others face an eternity in hell.

* Wight, Fred H. Manners and Customs of Bible Lands. Moody Press, Chicago. 1953.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

The Great Commandment



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a memento from a wedding you have attended or bring a photograph from your own wedding reception.

How many of you have ever been to a wedding? Have you ever thought about learning something about God from a wedding? You can!

After Jesus told the story about the men who rented a vineyard and mistreated the owner's son, He told another story. This story was about a wedding dinner.

Jesus said that a king wanted to give a dinner for his son's wedding. The people who were invited didn't want to come celebrate with him.

The king decided to invite anyone and everyone, good and bad. This time the banquet hall was full of people! There was one person who didn't belong, though. This person hadn't dressed the way he was supposed to so the king threw him out.

Jesus told this story to help us see who can go to heaven! You see, everyone is invited; you are invited. Have you ever gotten an invitation to something and not gone? That's what happened at the king's party and it also happens with an invitation to heaven. Not everyone who gets invited to heaven wants to go! Can you imagine? The most wonderful place ever and not everyone wants to go!

Then, there are some who say they want to go to heaven, but who think they can do things their own way.

God sent Jesus to be the way for us to go to heaven. Jesus died for your sins and my sins. Will you accept His invitation today?



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Encourage older students to write the words of the memory verse, as they would draw the lines of a picture, forming the outline of a robe or coat. Provide a picture for younger students. Encourage them to write the verse under the picture.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring Mexican Wedding Cookies for snack.
- Reenact Jesus' parable of the wedding feast.
- Sing "How Beautiful," or "I Am Covered Over (With a Robe of Righteousness)."
- Find Jerusalem on a map.
- Discuss Matthew 22:1-14 and Revelation 19:5-9.

**We take great
delight in the Lord.
We are joyful
because we belong
to our God.
He has dressed us
with salvation as if
it were our clothes.
He has put robes of
godliness on us.
Isaiah 61:10**

Trace the letters.

Everyone

is invited

to follow

Jesus.



Focus on the Story

Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?



Where?

What?

How?





Word Search

P O T W J E R U S A L E M V I
C S W E E A R T L P M E T N M
U C E D S D A B D N A D O O G
K K D D U H U K I H Y S X I U
T J D I S G N A T W R S O T S
J K I N G H T S R O O P J N U
K I N G D O M O F H E A V E N
Y I G F R E O M O L U R A T E
E R C E D E R Q F S M A N T J
S O L A Z A N N E R D B I A N
L T O S D O A T R W I L A O I
J S T T N E I D E B O E S N V
C A H J P S E I R O T S O Y E
N P E A I S M E L A S U R A J
H E S N O I T A T I V N I P J

JERUSALEM

JESUS

PARABLES

STORIES

KING

WEDDING FEAST

FOR SON

INVITATIONS

PAY NO ATTENTION

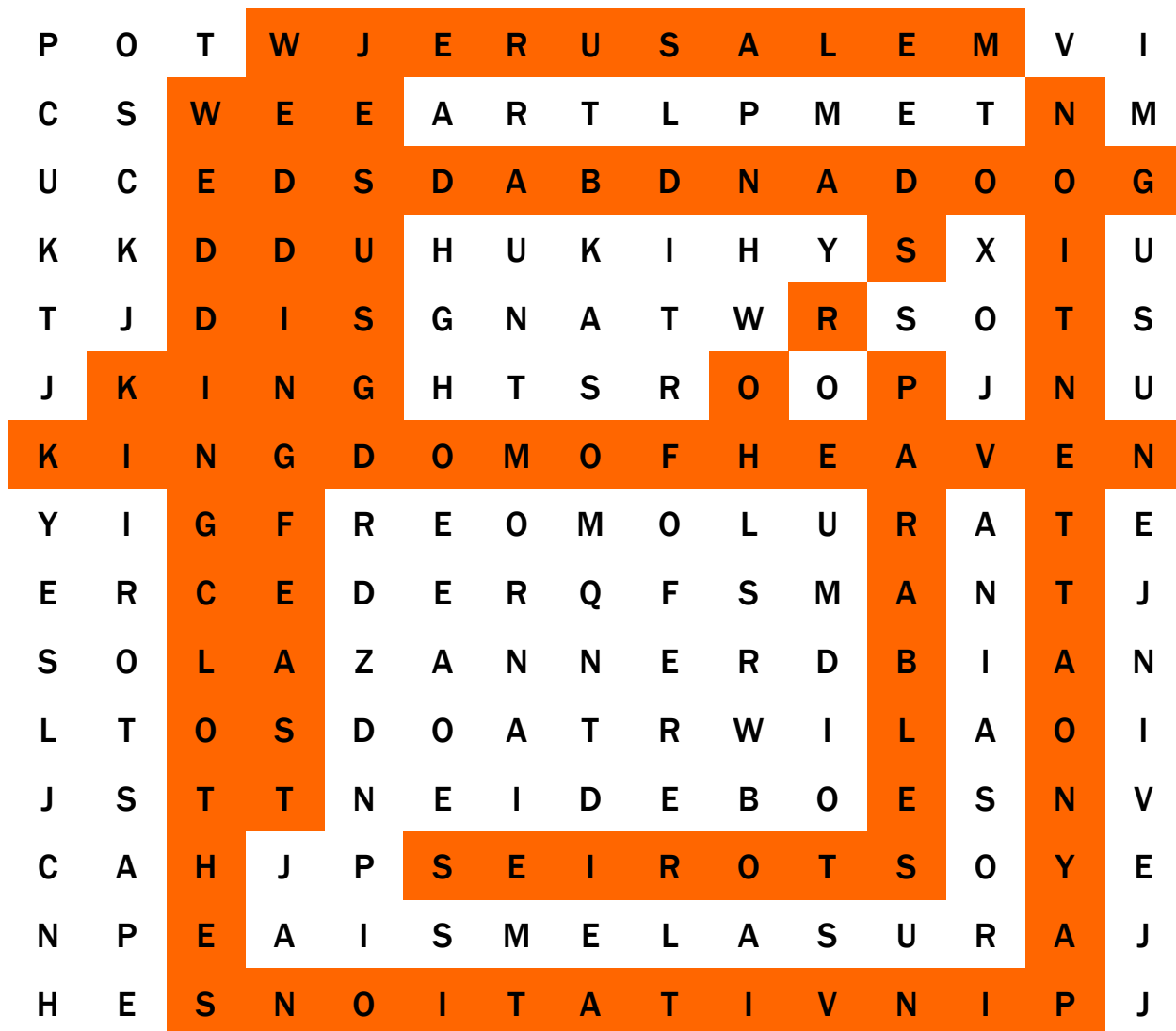
GOOD AND BAD

WEDDING CLOTHES

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



Word Search



JERUSALEM

JESUS

PARABLES

STORIES

KING

WEDDING FEAST

FOR SON

INVITATIONS

PAY NO ATTENTION

GOOD AND BAD

WEDDING CLOTHES

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



Preschool Word Search

R I F O J W E D D I N G
B U F A L W O W L L Y E
F S T O R I E S O A T S
F T R V I N E Y A R D N
S A K M A N S O N Y L S
H O W J E S H E A D D O
G R A P E S C H E S O E
D A B M K J O J E S U S
M H E A V E N O R I E S
D E A J E P R A I S E N
L A K I N G G O B E Y J
J E S U S U R C H R I T

JESUS

STORIES

WEDDING

KING

SON

HEAVEN



Preschool Word Search

R	I	F	O	J	W	E	D	D	I	N	G
B	U	F	A	L	W	O	W	L	L	Y	E
F	S	T	O	R	I	E	S	O	A	T	S
F	T	R	V	I	N	E	Y	A	R	D	N
S	A	K	M	A	N	S	O	N	Y	L	S
H	O	W	J	E	S	H	E	A	D	D	O
G	R	A	P	E	S	C	H	E	S	O	E
D	A	B	M	K	J	O	J	E	S	U	S
M	H	E	A	V	E	N	O	R	I	E	S
D	E	A	J	E	P	R	A	I	S	E	N
L	A	K	I	N	G	G	O	B	E	Y	J
J	E	S	U	S	U	R	C	H	R	I	T

JESUS

STORIES

WEDDING

KING

SON

HEAVEN