



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 43: Jesus' Parable of the Great Banquet

Scripture

Luke 14:1-24

Memory Verse

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If any of you hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with you. And you will eat with me.

Revelation 3:20 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that there will be a great dinner in heaven one day.

Understand that it is necessary to accept God's invitation in order to attend.

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.

“One Sabbath day, Jesus went to eat in the house of a well known Pharisee. While He was there, He was being carefully watched.” (Luke 14:1 NirV) This wasn't unusual though. If you remember from some of our other lessons, the religious leaders often watched Jesus or tried to catch Him in a trap with their questions. This time, Jesus had a question for them. You see, He had noticed the man in front of Him “whose body was badly swollen.” (Luke 14:2 NirV) Jesus turned to face the Pharisees and other religious leaders and asked them, “Is it breaking the Law to heal on the Sabbath?” (Luke 14:3 NirV)

When they wouldn't answer Him, Jesus healed the man. Then Jesus sent him away.

Jesus asked the leaders another question. “Suppose one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day. Wouldn't you pull him out right away?” (Luke 14:5 NirV) None of them said anything. The problem is that the religious leaders had added extra rules to God's rules. They said it was okay to get their animal out of a ditch on the Sabbath day, or day of rest, but it wasn't okay to heal anyone! Jesus was trying to show them how ridiculous and inconsistent their rules were.

Jesus noticed something else while he was eating; He noticed how the other guests chose to sit in the important places at the table. So, as He often did, Jesus told them a story. With the story, Jesus suggested that it is better to sit in a seat of no importance and possibly be asked to move to a more important place than to sit in the important place and be asked to move because someone more important has come in. Jesus also encouraged them not to invite those who could also invite them at a later date, but to invite those who can't walk, the disabled and the blind. “Then you will be blessed. Your guests can't pay you back.” (Luke 14:14 NirV) The pay back will come when Jesus returns.

And then, speaking of His return, Jesus said, “How fortunate the one who gets to eat dinner in God's kingdom!” (Luke 14:15 MSG) And then, Jesus told another story to explain. “A certain man was preparing a big dinner. He invited many guests.” (Luke 14:16 NirV) Many people were invited. On the day of the big dinner, a servant was sent to those who had been invited. They were told to come to the party; everything was ready.

The problem is that none of them came. They all made excuses. Their excuses were ridiculous. One needed to see a field he had bought, the other was going to pick up the oxen he had bought, and another one had

Application

Our memory verse says, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If any of you hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with you. And you will eat with me.” (Revelation 3:20 NIRV)

Jesus knocks, asking for permission to come into your life. It is not the literal knocking on door, but it sometimes feels like that on your heart.

Have you heard His voice through our lessons or as you read the Bible at home? Will you open up your life, as you would open a door, and let Jesus come in? Don't think up ridiculous excuses. There is nothing more important than this.

When you let Jesus in, He promises to come in and eat with you. That is a beautiful picture of the relationship He wants to have with you; the closeness, the sharing of normal, everyday things. If you have sensed Him knocking, let's talk.

just married. Would any of those things really keep you from going to a great dinner? They wouldn't have to, if you really wanted to go. The fact is, this dinner wasn't that important to them.

The servant returned and reported to his master who became very angry. Then, he sent the servant out into the streets of the town to invite and bring those who were poor, those who couldn't walk, the disabled, and the blind. They came to the dinner, but there was still room. “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads. Go out to the country lanes. Make the people come in. I want my house to be full.’” (Luke 14:23 NIRV)

Did you know that there will be a great dinner one day in heaven? Do you know who was invited to that dinner first? The Jews and the very religious leaders who watched Jesus so closely. And like the first to be invited in our lesson, they didn't find Jesus' invitation important enough to accept.

You and I are like the poor, disabled, and blind people in our story. God wants “His house” to be full. Did you know that is why Jesus hasn't returned yet? Second Peter, chapter three, verse nine tells us that God is being patient with us. He doesn't want anyone to die without a relationship with Him. That relationship begins when we accept His invitation. Have you accepted the invitation of God to begin a relationship with Him? If you have, you and I will share a great dinner together one day in heaven. And if you have not, what are you waiting for? “Today is the day of salvation!” (2 Corinthians 6:2 NLT)

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Counting the Cost



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a table cloth and place settings. Set them up in your classroom. Sit around them like you are sitting at a banquet table.

Jesus told a story about a man who was preparing to give a big dinner. He invited many people.

On the day of the big dinner, a servant was sent to those who had been invited. The servant said, "Come to the dinner. It is time. Everything is ready."

There was a problem, though. No one came. They all made excuses. Their excuses were ridiculous. "The first one said, 'I have just bought a field. I have to go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen. I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'" (Luke 14:19-20 NIV)

Would any of those things really keep you from going to a great dinner? They wouldn't have to, if you really wanted to go. The fact is, this dinner wasn't that important to them.

The servant returned and told his master. The master became very angry. Then, he sent the servant out into the streets of the town to invite and bring those who were poor, those who couldn't walk, the disabled, and the blind. They came to the dinner, but there was still room. "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads. Go out to the country lanes. Make the people come in. I want my house to be full.'" (Luke 14:23 NIV)

Did you know that there will be a great dinner one day in heaven? Do you know who was invited to that dinner first? The Jews and the very religious leaders who watched Jesus so closely. And like the first to be invited in our lesson, they didn't find Jesus' invitation important enough to accept.

You and I are like the poor, disabled, and blind people in our story. God wants "His house" to be full. Have you accepted your invitation?



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Each student will need two pieces of construction paper of equal size. Draw a rectangle in the middle of one piece of construction paper. Cut two short sides and one long side only, leaving one long side intact. Fold the rectangle back on the long side, like a door. Glue the two pieces of construction paper together, leaving the door free. Decorate the door with a knob. Print the memory verse inside the door. Be sure to include the reference.
- 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 grape juice and cookies for a snack today. Sit down and eat together, if possible.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Make invitations inviting people to come to church. As you distribute the invitations, pray for each person to accept your invitation to church, but more importantly, the invitation to a relationship with God.
- Sing “When We All Get to Heaven,” “I’ll Fly Away,” “I Can Only Imagine,” or another song related to the lesson.

Here I am!
I stand at the door
and knock.
If any of you
hears my voice and
opens the door,
I will come in
and eat with you.
And you will eat with me.

Revelation 3:20

Trace the letters.

OPEN

THE

DOOR

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?

○



Word Search

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

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.
If any of you hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in and eat with you. And you will eat with me.”
Revelation 3:20



Word Search

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

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.
If any of you hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in and eat with you. And you will eat with me.”
 Revelation 3:20



Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

STORY

BIG DINNER

INVITATION

POOR

BLIND



Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

STORY

BIG DINNER

INVITATION

POOR

BLIND