

Parable of the Great Banquet - February 14

Parents: Aren't we all captivated by a good story? Jesus tells one about the responses of those invited to a great banquet. We see people were distracted as much back then as we can be now. Let's discuss and learn more about the gracious invitation from God by the sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Read: Luke 14:15-24 - The Parable of the Great Banquet

15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." 16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready. 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' 20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' 21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 22 "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' 23 "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

Discuss: What did the invited guests do when the servant told them to come because everything was ready? *They began to make excuses why they couldn't come. They were distracted by other things.*

How did the owner of the house feel? *Angry.* What did he do next? *Told the servant to bring the crippled, blind, and lame. After that he said to go to the roads and country lanes so that the house would be full.*

What about all those included at the beginning would they still have a chance to come? *No, they wouldn't get a taste of the banquet.*

God has invited everyone to his heavenly feast. We read in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". Why would people not want to come? *Many simply ignore God. Others are distracted by focusing only on themselves.* How can we attend? *By God's gift of faith in Jesus. When we are baptized, God puts faith in our hearts, and when we hear God's Word, the Holy Spirit grows that faith and keeps it strong.*

Key Point: The Lord Invites Us

The Lord (Make an "L" with one hand and make a sash from one shoulder to opposite hip)
Invites Us (Bring one hand out in front; forearm extended, palm up,
and fingers slightly cupped, next, sweep the hand in
towards your body, lastly, point to yourself and others)

Family Activity: God graciously invites us to His heavenly banquet by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. To keep this truth in mind, let's design a placemat. Print the template attached on cardstock or create your own.

Prayer: Dear God, We praise You for Your love & generosity. Forgive us when we make excuses to You. Help us focus on Your promises and live with heaven in mind. We thank and love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

