



The Great Banquet

Lesson Aim: To see that we need to respond to Jesus' invitation.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Teaches

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 14:15-24

What He has done: Jesus taught about guests invited to a banquet.

Key Verse: Luke 14:15

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 25:6-9

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

Unit 5: The King Who Teaches—Parables 1			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
23	The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:4-7	Jesus taught that God finds those who are lost.	To recognize we wander like sheep and Jesus is our Shepherd.
24	The Sower, Luke 8:4-8, 11-15	Jesus taught about four different responses to God's Word.	To understand why some believe God's Word and some do not.
25	The Vine and the Branches, John 15:1-5	Jesus taught He is the Vine and we are the branches.	To understand what it means to remain in Jesus and bear fruit.
26	The Workers in the Vineyard, Matthew 20:1-16	Jesus taught about a fair and generous landowner.	To know God is fair and generous.
27	The Great Banquet, Luke 14:15-24	Jesus taught about guests invited to a banquet.	To see that we need to respond to Jesus' invitation.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 13:5-6. Please join us in praying, "Thank you, Lord, for Your parables. Give us understanding and fill us with the joy of knowing how special each child is to You. Amen."

TREASURE TREAT

The Treasure Treat for Units 5 and 6 is a Kingdom Parable Journal. Each week, children receive Kingdom Parable Stickers to add to their journal. The journal and stickers are available at Resourcewell.org. You may print the stickers on sticker paper or on sturdy paper and attach with glue.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Everyone Is Invited	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" "The Fruit of the Spirit" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Amazing Grace" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Absolute All Time Favorites For Kids Cedarmont Worship for Kids: Volume 2
		Worship Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:14	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 27 Critter Kingdom script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Luke 14:15-24	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 25:6-9	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—The Great Banquet Kingdom Parable Stickers, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord," CD player
	Up to 10	Snack: The Great Party Food	Party snack (cake or cupcakes)
	Up to 10	Craft: Parable Wind Chimes—The Great Banquet	Ribbon, large wood bead, sturdy white paper, glue, tape, markers, hole punch
	Up to 10	Game: That's No Excuse	Invitations (available at ResourceWell.org or create your own), blank slips of paper, pencils, trash can
	Up to 5	Bonus Parable: The Ready Servant	Bible open to Luke 12:35-40, The Ready Servant Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Color Decode	Colored paper, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	Kingdom Parable Review	Parable titles printed on footprint-shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite party food?

GAME: EVERYONE IS INVITED

Purpose: Play a game to introduce the concept that Jesus invites everyone to life forever with God.

Supplies: None

We are learning some of Jesus' parables. Why did Jesus tell parables? (To teach lessons about God's kingdom.) **Today, we will hear Jesus' parable about a great banquet. A banquet is a special dinner party. Let's pretend we are having a banquet. Listen for your banquet invitation so you can hurry to your seat!**

Directions:

1. Form two or more teams with an equal number of children on each team.
2. Number the corners in the room 1, 2, 3, and 4.
3. Designate the center of the room as the great banquet hall.
4. Have all the children stand in a corner of their choosing. Teams do not have to stay together.
5. Choose a child to be the "Banquet Host." The Banquet Host closes his or her eyes and counts to ten while all of the children move quickly from corner to corner in any order.
6. When the Banquet Host gets to "ten," all the children must stop in the corner closest to them.
7. Before opening his or her eyes, the Banquet Host calls out a corner number by saying: **"Corner number [fill in number], you are invited to my banquet!"**
8. All of the children in that corner sit in the great banquet hall with their teammates.
9. The goal of the game is for all the members of your team to be invited to the banquet.
10. Continue playing until only four children remain standing. Invite those four children to join their teams at the banquet.

When you heard your invitation, what did you do? (Sat in the great banquet hall with my team.)

In Jesus' story about the great banquet, many people were invited to the party. Some people made excuses and did not go; others accepted the invitation. Let's find out why Jesus told this parable.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Jesus is the King who teaches. As our Teacher, Jesus told stories, called parables, to teach us about His kingdom. Today, we will hear the Parable of the Great Banquet. Just as the man invited everyone to his great banquet, Jesus invites all of us to live forever with Him in His kingdom. We join His kingdom by following Jesus as our Lord. Jesus invites us all to come to Him—including children! Read Matthew 19:14.



One day in heaven we will celebrate with a wonderful banquet. Imagine what that will be like! Let's give our offering as we thank Jesus for all the good things He gives us now on earth. Collect offering and sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul." Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on trusting and following Jesus.



Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 27.



The great banquet

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. Why were the workers who had worked for the longest time grumbling about their pay? (They thought they should be paid more than those who came later.) Did the workers get the pay that was promised? (Yes.) The owner generously gave all the workers the same pay no matter how long they had worked. We learned God is like the owner of the vineyard. He is both fair and generous. Today, we will hear the Parable of the Great Banquet. A banquet is a special dinner with many invited guests.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 14:15-24.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

As I read, imagine Jesus Himself telling us this story. Read Luke 14:15-24.



We are all invited

THE WAY

What did the first people invited to the banquet do? (They made excuses for why they could not come.) **In Bible times, seeing a new field, trying some new oxen, or being newly married were not good excuses.**

What did the man do when the people made excuses? (He became angry and invited many more people.) **The next group the man invited were people that might not usually be invited to a banquet. These guests were poor and unable to give a banquet to repay their host. Did they come when they were invited?** (Yes.)

In this parable, the man giving the banquet stands for God. The guests who came to the banquet stand for all who come to heaven. The ones who made excuses stand for those who won't come to heaven because they refuse to follow Jesus.

Just as the man invited everyone to come to his banquet, Jesus invites everyone to come to Him, no matter who they are or what they have done. Even though we can't repay Him, Jesus invites us to be part of His kingdom. Trusting and following Him is the only way we can do that. When we accept His invitation, we will one day get to live with Him in heaven where a great banquet has been prepared for all who follow Jesus.

We are following Jesus whenever we pray, read the Bible, praise Him, or do things God's way. What are some excuses we give for not putting Jesus first? (Too busy, tired, plan to do it later, activities, homework, plans with friends, etc.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

The Bible says there will be a great banquet in heaven one day and everyone who believes in Jesus will be there. Seven hundred years before Jesus told this parable, Isaiah described that banquet.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 25:6-9. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Isaiah 25:6-9.

No one at the banquet in heaven will be sad because the Lord will wipe away every tear. All those who follow Jesus will celebrate because the Lord has saved them.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, _____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is the Great Banquet Kingdom Parable Sticker. You will also receive a bonus sticker for the Parable of the Ready Servant (see Bonus Parable in GOT TIME?). You can discover more about this parable in this week's Daily Way. Keep your Kingdom Parable Journal at home and collect all twenty Kingdom Parable Stickers by joining us here each time.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 27 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw many people seated at a big table with your favorite foods. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: THE GREAT PARTY FOOD

Purpose: Children will eat a snack to help them remember Jesus invites everyone to life forever in the kingdom of God.

Snack Suggestion: Party snack (cake or cupcakes)

Have you ever been invited to a party? How did you feel? (Happy, excited.) **Jesus invites all of us to life forever in the kingdom of God. When we accept His invitation to follow Him, we will get to live with Him in heaven one day.**

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **“What do you think heaven will be like?”**

CRAFT: PARABLE WIND CHIMES—THE GREAT BANQUET

Purpose: Create a wind chime strand to remember the Parable of the Great Banquet.

Supplies: Ribbon, large wood bead, sturdy white paper, glue, tape, markers, hole punch

Prepare: Cut a 2 inch x 4 inch strip of sturdy white paper. Cut a 20-inch and a 4-inch ribbon for each child. To maintain balance, punch a hole directly opposite the strand attached in the previous lesson, about one inch from the edge.

Optional: Use a large bead to secure the 20-inch ribbon above the plate. Substitute beads with any materials available: buttons, shells, stones, small metal objects, etc. Display a finished craft.

Teacher Tip: Parable Wind Chimes will be completed in Lessons 23-32 as the parables of Jesus are taught. Each session, a new strand representing the parable will be added to the paper plate base of the wind chimes. To maintain balance in the wind chimes as they are being created, punch holes directly opposite from each other when adding a new strand. Be sure to have extra paper plates and 30-inch ribbon hangers available for any children who join camp in future sessions.

Today, we heard the Parable of the Great Banquet. The great banquet stands for life forever in the kingdom of God. Who is invited? (Everyone who will accept the invitation to follow Jesus.) **Let's make an invitation for our Parable Wind Chimes to remind us God invites all of us to follow His Son and live forever with Him in His kingdom.**

Directions:

1. Thread the 20-inch ribbon up through the hole on the edge of the plate.
2. Tie a knot in the 20-inch ribbon on the top of the plate large enough to prevent the ribbon from pulling back through the plate. Tie a bead to the bottom of the 20-inch ribbon.
3. Roll a 2 inch x 4 inch strip of paper into a small scroll.
4. Tie a 4-inch ribbon around the scroll and secure it in place with glue.
5. Glue the scroll lengthwise to the center of the 20-inch ribbon.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: THAT'S NO EXCUSE!

Purpose: To recognize our excuses and discover practical ways to set God as our priority.

Supplies: Invitations (available at ResourceWell.org) or sturdy paper to create your own using the directions below, blank slips of paper, pencils, trash can

Invitation Directions:

1. Using ¼ of a standard-size sheet of sturdy paper, print or write the following on the front:

YOU ARE INVITED!

2. On the reverse side of the invitation, print or write the following:

**You are invited to the Banquet of the King!
Come and follow King Jesus now and
get ready for the great banquet one day in heaven!**

Optional: Instead of having the children write excuses on blank cards, fill a box with familiar objects that represent excuses (ie. toys, books, balls, cards, computers, or electronic games) or cut pictures of such items from magazines. Have each child choose an object or picture to discuss an excuse and a solution.

Display invitation. **This card is an invitation for each of you to come and follow Jesus. We can follow Him now by praying and doing things His way.**

Directions:

1. Deliver one invitation and one blank card to each child.
2. Volunteer reads invitation aloud.
3. Children brainstorm excuses used to not follow Jesus every day such as television, electronic games, sports, bikes, schoolwork, phone calls, computer, chores, swimming, etc.
4. On their blank cards, have children write or draw an excuse they use for not following Jesus every day.
5. Ask one child to explain his or her excuse.
6. Have all the children brainstorm ways to overcome that excuse and put Jesus first in that situation. An example would be the excuse of having a new game to play is overcome by thanking Jesus for the game and asking Him to help you play with an attitude that pleases God.
7. Have the child crumble the excuse and toss it into a trash can, symbolizing the child's choice to no longer use that excuse as a reason to not follow Jesus.
8. Repeat steps 5-7 until each child has had a turn.

Through Jesus, God provides the way for us to come to Him, so there is no good excuse for not following Him. If you are already following Jesus, keep this invitation as a reminder to follow Him every day or give it to a friend. If you have not yet decided to follow Jesus, keep it as a reminder that you are always invited to come to Him.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

BONUS PARABLE: THE READY SERVANT

Purpose: To introduce and discuss another parable Jesus taught His followers.

Supplies: Bible open to Luke 12:35-40, The Ready Servant Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)

Today's bonus parable is the story of the ready servant. Volunteer reads Luke 12:35-40. **The Son of Man is another name for Jesus. Just as the master will return to his servant, Jesus has promised to come back for us. The Bible says Jesus will come back, riding through the clouds, to take us home to heaven! Does anyone know when Jesus will come back?** (No, it will be at an unexpected time.) **Just as the servants are to be ready for their master's return, we are to be ready for Jesus' return. To be ready for Jesus, we must believe in Him and follow Him every day. We can do that by loving God and loving our neighbors. We can also help others be ready by inviting them to follow Him.**



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

GAME: COLOR DECODE

Purpose: Children unscramble and learn the words to the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Colored paper, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, marker, scissors

Prepare: For every four children, cut a sheet of colored paper into four equal-size cards. On each of the cards write one of these phrases from the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart"/ "and with all your soul"/ "and with all your mind."/ "Love your neighbor as yourself." Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Mix the sets together. Note: If children do not divide evenly into groups of four, give one or more children two cards of the same color.
3. Give each child a random card.
4. On your signal, the children are to search for the other three children with matching color cards.
5. Once together, the children put their cards in the correct order of the Bible Memory Verse and sit down. (They can use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
6. **How should we love God?** (With all our heart, soul, and mind.) **How should we love our neighbors?** (As ourselves.) **Jesus told parables to teach us how to live together in God's kingdom. The parables teach us how to love God and each other.**
7. Play again, as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: THE WAVE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Poster or Bible

Directions:

1. Assign one phrase from Matthew 22:37, 39 to each child or group.
2. As helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to thighs and sits down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.



KINGDOM PARABLE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus. Lessons 23-32 explore the parables Jesus told to teach us about His kingdom. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Jesus Teaches about the Vine and the Branches: In the Parable of the Vine and the Branches, the gardener stands for God the Father. Who is the true vine? (Jesus.) What happens to the branches that stay connected to the vine? (They bear fruit.) Name some examples of fruit that we bear as we remain close with Jesus? (The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are seen in our good deeds and attitudes that build God's kingdom.)

The Workers in the Vineyard: What did the vineyard owner pay the workers? (The same amount—one denarius.) Why did some of the workers grumble? (They thought the owner was being unfair.) How was the owner generous? (He gave a full day's pay to all of the workers even those who only worked one hour.) God is fair and generous. When has God been generous to you? When has He been generous to others?

The Great Banquet: What did the first people invited to the banquet do? (They made excuses for why they could not come.) Just as the man invited people to his banquet, God invites us all to join His kingdom. To accept God's invitation, who must we trust and follow? (Jesus.) Who will be the guests at the great banquet that will be in heaven one day? (All who trusted and followed Jesus.)

How to create a display for reviewing the Kingdom Parables:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the footprints.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the display using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan