



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Kings & Kingdoms Part 1: The Life of Jesus
Unit 5, Lesson 27

The Great Banquet

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

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is your favorite party food?

GAME: Everyone Is Invited

THE WORSHIP JESUS AS THE KING WHO TEACHES

Read Worship Scripture: Matthew 19:14.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook.

THE WORD THE GREAT BANQUET

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Today, we will hear the Parable of the Great Banquet. A banquet is a special dinner with many invited guests. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Luke 14:15-24. Find It First. Highlight Key Verse: Luke 14:15. Pray. Read.

THE WAY WE ARE ALL INVITED

What did the first people invited to the banquet do? (They made excuses for why they could not come.) **What were the excuses given for not coming to the banquet?** (Seeing a new field, trying some new oxen, being newly married.)

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, who does the man giving the banquet represent? (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. **What kinds of**

people does God invite to be with Him? (Everyone is invited, no matter who we are or what we have done.)

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.

What are some things we do when we trust and follow Jesus? (Pray, read the Bible, 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.)

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. Reveal Isaiah 25:6-9. **Find It First. Highlight.** Read.

Will anyone at the banquet in heaven be sad? (No, the Lord will wipe away all tears. There will be no sadness.) **What will the people who trusted in the Lord do on the day of the banquet in heaven?** (Rejoice, which means to celebrate.)

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: The Great Banquet Kingdom Parable Sticker
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: People seated at a big table with your favorite foods
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: The Great Party Food

CRAFT: Parable Wind Chimes–The Great Banquet

GAME: That's No Excuse!

BONUS PARABLE: The Ready Servant

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Color Decode, The Wave
KINGDOM PARABLE REVIEW