



Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, a story about an invitation.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Matthew 22:1-10

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for inviting us to know You and to be a part of Your Kingdom.

Help us to accept the love and forgiveness and the mercy and grace You offer us through Your Son, Jesus.

We pray that we might not only do our part in accepting this life-changing invitation, but also share the good news of Your invitation with others so that they might come to know You and be a part of Your Kingdom, too.

In Jesus name,

Amen

Discussion

Questions for adults to ask children:

How many people accepted the King's invitation and came to the party at first? (v. 3-5)

No one came.

What people did the king send his messengers out to invite in the end (v. 9-10)

Anyone and everyone--all the people they saw, "the bad as well as the good"

Who would you invite to a party?

How would you feel if they refused to come?

The "Big Picture" Question for Kids and Adults:

Who is invited to be a part of God's Kingdom?

God invites everyone to be a part of God's Kingdom, but each person must accept the invitation (by choosing to accept the love, mercy, and grace of God through Jesus.

Family Activity 1

Jesus used the parable of the wedding feast to show that many people are invited to God's Kingdom, but only a few choose to come. In this activity you will work to make invitations to remind us to tell everyone about Jesus so they can be a part of God's Kingdom.

You will need – construction paper, card stock, or other stiff paper, 1 sheet per person; markers/colored pencils/crayons, etc.; stickers, etc. for decoration

To make invitations: Fold each sheet of paper in half to make a card. Use the other supplies to decorate the outside of the card. Write the "Big Picture" Question and the answer on the inside of the invitation. You can give your invitations to those who need to hear this good news or keep them to remind yourselves of God's open invitation to God's Kingdom.



A verse to remember

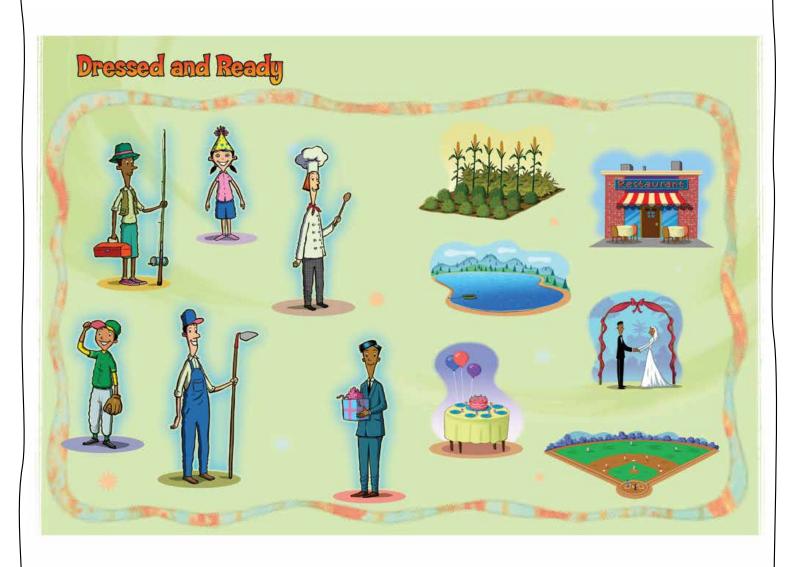
Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom belongs to people who are like these children."

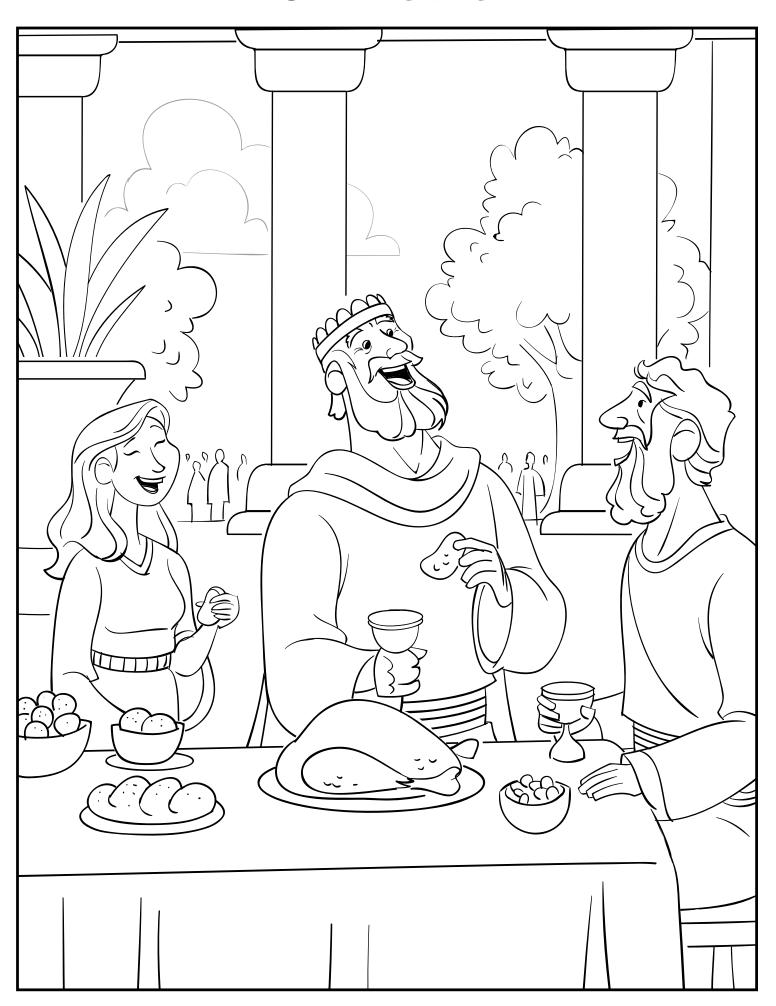
The Bible is full of invitations from Jesus. This verse reminds us that Jesus welcomes children and that God's Kingdom belongs to all who believe in, accept, and follow Jesus like a child. To learn this verse together, come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate it on a piece of paper and place it somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

When you go to a wedding, you typically wear your best clothes. It would not be appropriate to show up in dirty clothes, or completely off the wall, like a soccer uniform or a swimsuit. Complete the "Dressed and Ready" Activity below by drawing a line between each person and the place she or he is likely headed.



Coloring Page



The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Word Search Puzzle

S S Ζ D G Ν S Χ 0 Q C J Е Ρ Ν Ν R В D Ε D Ε В Z R G Т Т 0 Χ Е Α Ν R Т Ι R В Μ S Ν Ε В Κ Ε Μ Α C Q Α J Ε Ν Т Ζ G Ζ Н S Т Е W D Ι C Q S G Μ S Ι Ν S Т Ι Μ Ι Т Е Ε Ε Ρ Κ Ν В D R Κ S G D S R S Ι 0 Χ S Е D J Ι Ζ J Ν G D

PARABLES	STREET	INVITED	BANQUET
GUESTS	HEAVEN	KINGDOM	CORNERS
SERVANTS	CATTLE	COME	OXEN
FILLED	REFUSED	WEDDING	DINNER

Maze Puzzle

