

Home Family Worship with Kids 30. October 11th, 2020

Matthew 22:1-14 Parable of the Wedding Feast

God invites us to reap the benefits of salvation, and all we have to do is accept that free gift. Sometimes we make excuses or push Him aside, as the people in the parable did. But God wants everyone to hear the good news of Jesus, and accepts all who come to Him in faith.

Introduction: Excuses, what are they? An excuse is a reason why we can't do something or why we did something. Often it means coming up with a reason of why it's not our fault. I can't cook your dinner because I have a little cut on my finger. I can't get your shoes because my toe hurts, I can't open this can of cookies because the lid is on too tight, etc. Children will begin to get the idea quickly! What excuses can you come up with? (Give some examples) Everyone was doing it. He started it. I have to wash my hair. My arm is sore. Play the game Sit in a circle with your family. One person will toss the ball to another player and give an excuse that they can think of. The child who catches the ball will then give an excuse and roll or toss the ball to someone else, etc. Children will begin to realize how funny excuses sound. Begin to tell the story.

Let's have a think about a party we have had? People have all sorts of parties. It might be a birthday party, or a slumber party, a picnic or a costume party.

No matter what kind of party you give, it is a lot of work to get ready for a party, isn't it? First, you have to decide what kind of a party you are going to have. Then you have to go out and buy the decorations or make them yourself. You have to plan what games you are going to play and make sure that you have all of the proper equipment for the games. Next you have to decide what you are going to serve and go to the store to buy the food and drinks. After you have made all the plans, you make a list of who you are going to invite and send out the invitations.

Have we ever planned a party and sent out the invitations, but no one showed up? If that happened, how do you think it would make you feel? Would you be angry? Would your feelings be hurt? What do you think you might do?

Watch one or more of the video clips or read the story from the Bible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42PuQjgxOj4> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEbwiQvo5k4> or

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80UhWO_wjHY

Let's have a rethink about the parable. Jesus once told about a king who threw a party, but none of the people he invited showed up for his party. In Jesus' story, the king was going to have a party for his Son who was getting married. Since he was a king, and this was his only son, you can imagine that it was going to be quite a celebration and it was a tremendous honour to be invited!

All of the plans had been made, the food was prepared, the invitations had been sent. The day of the celebration came, but no one showed up! The king sent his servants to see where the people were and why they had not come to his celebration. The people all began to make excuses about how busy they were.

The king was very upset, so he told his servants to go out into the streets and invite everyone they saw to come to his son's wedding celebration. They did exactly what the king told them to do and the Bible tells us that the wedding hall was filled with guests.

In this story, the King is God and, of course, Jesus is His Son. God is going to have a great celebration for His Son in Heaven and we have all been invited. I can't imagine why, but some people will turn down God's invitation. We've been invited too-- I hope you will accept God's invitation.

1) What do you suppose Jesus wants us to understand about God's Kingdom from this story? (God invites everyone to come to him, but we must come to God according to his plan and not our own. The guests that refused to come to the banquet, or the ones that were too busy, or the one that wouldn't wear the proper clothes, wanted to do things their own way. This story teaches us that God wants us to follow and obey him by choosing his way and not our own way.)

2) How do we discover God's way for our lives? (First, by asking Jesus to be our Saviour and Forever Friend, then learning what God tells us.)

3) How do we learn what God tells us? (By reading the Bible or having it read to us. Coming to church)

4) What other ways can we learn God's way for our lives? (By praying to God and asking him to show us his way. Obeying and trusting God.)

5) How are Christians to be like the servants in the story? (The servants went into the streets to invite everyone they met to come to the banquet; in the same way, Christians are to go into all the world and tell the good news about Jesus to everyone.)

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JC2NgfkfD5c> I cannot come.

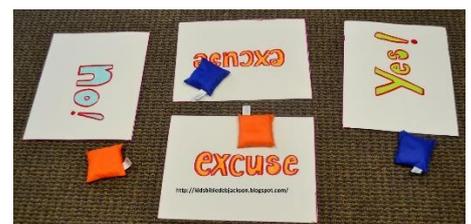
Heaven invites you to a party <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fevmY4-D4LE>

I like to jump <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpbKbSjMc7Y>

Looking at my Heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AS0Dgv-iJPo>

Your love never fails <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgQ6vWEhH5E>

Activities: Bean bag toss Target Game. Family sit (they could stand) in a circle around the game boards you see in image. Take in turns in tossing a beanbag onto the words. Have a list of questions to ask, depending on where they landed. If they landed on YES or NO, ask a question like Did you help your Mum today? They would answer with what they landed on.



If it landed on EXCUSE, they had to make up an excuse why they didn't do what she asked them. For instance, Why didn't you clean your room today? Why didn't you walk the dog? Why didn't you play with brother/sister? They had to make up an excuse why they didn't do it. I didn't have time, I didn't feel like it, (nobody said I forgot!) Then, everybody shouted "Don't make excuses!"

You can cut a piece of poster into 4 sections to make your own, but you could really just draw lines to divide it and keep it as one game board.

Make an "excuse-o-matic":

<https://blenheimfreechurch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Excuse-o-matic.pdf>



For Older Children:

This parable is found in two different books of the Bible. Look at the two stories and compare them. How are they the same, how are they different?

Matthew 22:1-14 and Luke 14:15-24.