

Lesson 3

God's Kingdom: All Are Invited

Bible Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14

Summary: The life of faith includes praying for others who do not know Jesus to love Him too. The Kingdom of Heaven is likened to a Feast at a wedding table in Heaven filled. Therefore we are to pray and live so that others will love Jesus too.

Memory Verse: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life." *John 6:47*

Enrichment Memory Verse: For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. *II Corinthians 2:15*

Catechism Student Memory Work: (The Second Petition) Thy Kingdom Come
How is this done? When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe His holy Word . . .

Catechism TM Reference: #290

What does the Holy Spirit work in them who thus by faith have become partakers in the kingdom of God? They live a godly life here on earth, and in heaven forever.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Help students understand that

- ◆ we are to pray for others, especially for their salvation
- ◆ we are, by God's grace, to live a godly life here so that others will see Jesus in us (see Matthew 5:16)

Prepare Materials

- ◆ Bible, pencils, crayons or colored pencils.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Introduction

When I receive an invitation to a wedding or a graduation, or some other event I take it to mean that someone thinks that I am special to him or her, and they want me in attendance at the special event taking place in their life. In the parable of the Wedding Feast Jesus teaches us that God thinks we are all special, and that He wants each and every one of us to be a part of His kingdom. The parable also teaches us that it is important that we respond properly to the invitation that God extends to us to be a part of His kingdom.

B. Prayer Preparation

1. Thank the Lord for inviting you to be a part of His Kingdom through faith in Jesus.

2. Ask the Lord to help you share with your students that they are all special in the sight of God.
3. Ask the Lord to help you be faithful to share the love of the Lord with your family and friends that need to know that God loves them.

C. Bible Study

The parable that Jesus tells in Matthew 22:1-14 is most often referred to as “The Parable of the Marriage Feast.” Sometimes it is referred to as “The Marriage Feast Slighted” because some of the main teaching points in the parable focus on the consequences experienced by those who reject the invitation to accept Jesus as their Savior.

In looking at the parable we should keep in mind that “The King” is the Lord. His “son”, who is the guest of honor at the marriage feast, is Jesus. Those who have been invited, in the historical setting, are the Jewish people. Through the words of the prophets in the Old Testament, at various times God had extended the invitation to the Jewish people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

When Jesus came into the world the Lord was saying to His people, “Everything is ready.” God’s only begotten Son had come. It was now time to celebrate the completion of God’s plan of salvation. However, instead of embracing Christ as the Messiah/Savior, the Jews rejected Him. In rejecting Jesus as God’s Son, these people brought upon themselves the wrath of God.

We must be careful not to just look at the parable and see only judgment of the Jews of Jesus day. The parable stands as an eternal lesson for us to learn from as well. There are many people today that are just like the chief priests and the Pharisees. It is an unfortunate, but true fact that there are many faithful church-going people that have no time for, or interest in celebrating salvation through faith in God’s Son, Jesus. These people are very religious. They study the Scriptures, and hold to the traditions of the church. However, they refuse to accept the invitation of God’s Word to believe in Jesus as Savior. If people refuse to respond to the invitation to believe in Jesus as their Savior they will have to face the wrath of God.

But no one needs to face God’s wrath. In verses 8-10 of Matthew 22 we are reminded that even as the king in the parable sent out his slaves into the highways and the streets in order to invite people (both the evil and the good) to come to the marriage feast, so too God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4). The Lord doesn’t care about what we have done in the past. He doesn’t care what others say about us, or how people in our society view us. The Lord invites us to simply believe in Jesus as our Savior.

However, the Lord has one condition for us to meet in order to be welcomed into His Kingdom. We must be properly “clothed”. In Matthew 22:11 we read that there was one guest at the wedding feast that was not properly clothed. In the setting of the parable, the guests of the king would not have gone out and bought new clothes in order to be properly clothed for such a royal occasion. Instead, when the guests arrived at the palace of the king, they would have been offered garments by the king’s staff that they would have put on before entering the feast hall. That the man described in verse 11 was not properly dressed is an indication that he had refused to put on the garments that had been offered him by the king’s staff. The king had rightly taken offense at this man’s actions, and had him “cast out” of the feast.

This incident stands as a warning to those who desire to be a part of the kingdom of heaven. We too must be clothed properly. We must be clothed in “Christ’s righteousness.” To be clothed with Christ’s righteousness means that the basis on which I am righteous in God’s sight is not my “good deeds,” but it is the blood of Christ – which cleanses me from all unrighteousness.

As Christians, it is our duty to let people know that the Lord desires that every one would accept the invitation to be a part of His heavenly kingdom. It is also our duty to let people know that there are consequences to be faced by not responding to God’s invitation to believe in Jesus as their Savior.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome with Love

Have your class draw a picture of a banquet or feast. Provide butcher paper and crayons or markers. Display for the story today.

Have your class give names for prayer time. Encourage them to add names of folks they know who do not know Jesus. We need to pray for others - especially for their salvation.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Sing the Message

Use the theme hymn here: "Our Father, Throned in Heaven Above" Concordia Hymnal #220

"King of my life I crown thee now" verse one of Lead Me to Calvary

"King of Kings and Lord of Lords"

"This Little Light of Mine."

Pray the Message

Take time for all students who wish to pray out loud to do so and then you close.

Or : Use a quiet time for students who have unsaved loved ones to pray for them either out loud or silently - they may wish to share these as unspoken requests.

Learn the New Words

parable

invitation

wedding feast

servants - a person employed by another, esp. to do household duties; a person devoted to another or to a cause, creed, etc.

invited guests - a person entertained at the home, club, etc. of another; any paying customer of a hotel, restaurant, etc.

attitude - a bodily posture showing mood, action, etc.; a manner showing one's feelings or thoughts ; one's disposition, opinion, etc.

reject

condemned

hell

Introduce the Message

Bring in some examples of invitations. Many of your students will be familiar with birthday invitations - perhaps you could show them a wedding or graduation invitation - something really formal. Discuss what is involved in being invited - RSVP? Gifts? Preparations, etc.?

Today we will discuss the parable of the wedding supper. It tells of a great banquet being prepared and those who respond to the invitation.

Read/Tell the Message

Now read the lesson from your student books. Teacher read to them or they read a paragraph or let them break into pairs to read together.

Reinforce the Message

Ask: What were some of the responses to the invitation? (Some didn't pay attention - some went to their jobs, families, and farms. Still others even beat up the servants who brought the invitation)

Ask: What is God's response to those who reject his invitation? (Love)

Ask: What can we do to help these people become God's children? (pray for them and live our lives in such a way that honors God so they will see their need for a Savior)

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memorize the Bible Verse

Lesson 3

Have half the class say "Truly, truly, I say to you,"

The other half will echo "He who believes has eternal life."

the verse.

Together "John 6:47 Repeat - then change phrases and try it again.

Second Petition: Thy Kingdom Come

Or use the memory verse activity in your material.

Do the Activities Together

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

List ways that your students can let their lights shine for Jesus. (tracts, letters to loved ones, visiting a nursing home, packing a care basket, collecting offerings, or giving of your excess to the needy)

Review the paragraph in the lesson:

We can also live our lives in a way that honors God so others will see Jesus in us. Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." We let our light shine when we tell other people about Jesus and when we do things that honor God. Doing our work with a cheerful attitude, telling the truth even when it is hard to do, and being obedient to

our parents are a few ways others can see Jesus living in us.

Pray Together

Pray for missionaries today - those serving in countries that have many "rules and regulations" regarding entry into heaven. Pray for their witness and those who would agree that they can never "do enough" to "make it" to heaven. You could have photos of the missionaries available for your students to each take one home to pray for during the week. These are available from AFLC World Missions dept. Pray for your class too - as they may have opportunities to share John 14:6 this week with those they come in contact with at school and at play.

Prepare for Next Week

Gather and Prepare Materials

- ♦ Bibles pencils, colored pencils,

Prepare Lesson 4

Begin your study and preparation with prayer.

Pray for each student daily by name.

Read the Bible text John 14:1-3 Psalm 121:5-8

Memorize the Bible verse:

Psalm 121:7-8 "the Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. the Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever."

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."

Read the Teacher Manual.

Highlight, underline, and write in your own notes to help you teach Lesson 4.



Memory Verse

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."

John 6:47

Enrichment Memory Verse: II Corinthians 2:15

Use colored pencils to mark the KEY WORDS in the first paragraph of your lesson. The sentences below will give you clues for WHAT key words to look for.

1. Circle  in purple WHO was preparing to give a wedding feast or banquet? Circle all the words that refer to that person.
2. Color lightly in yellow WHO were sent to carry the message.
3. Underline in blue WHAT the message was.
4. Make a red box  around to WHOM the message was delivered.

What can we learn from the parable in Matthew 22? Draw a line to connect the parable words on the left to the comparable words on the right.

PARABLE

COMPARABLE

The king	Believers in Christ
The son	God the Father
The servants	Jesus says, "Come unto Me"
The invitation	Revelation 19:6-9
The servants invite people to come	Jesus Christ
The wedding feast or banquet	Christians tell the world about Jesus



APPLY

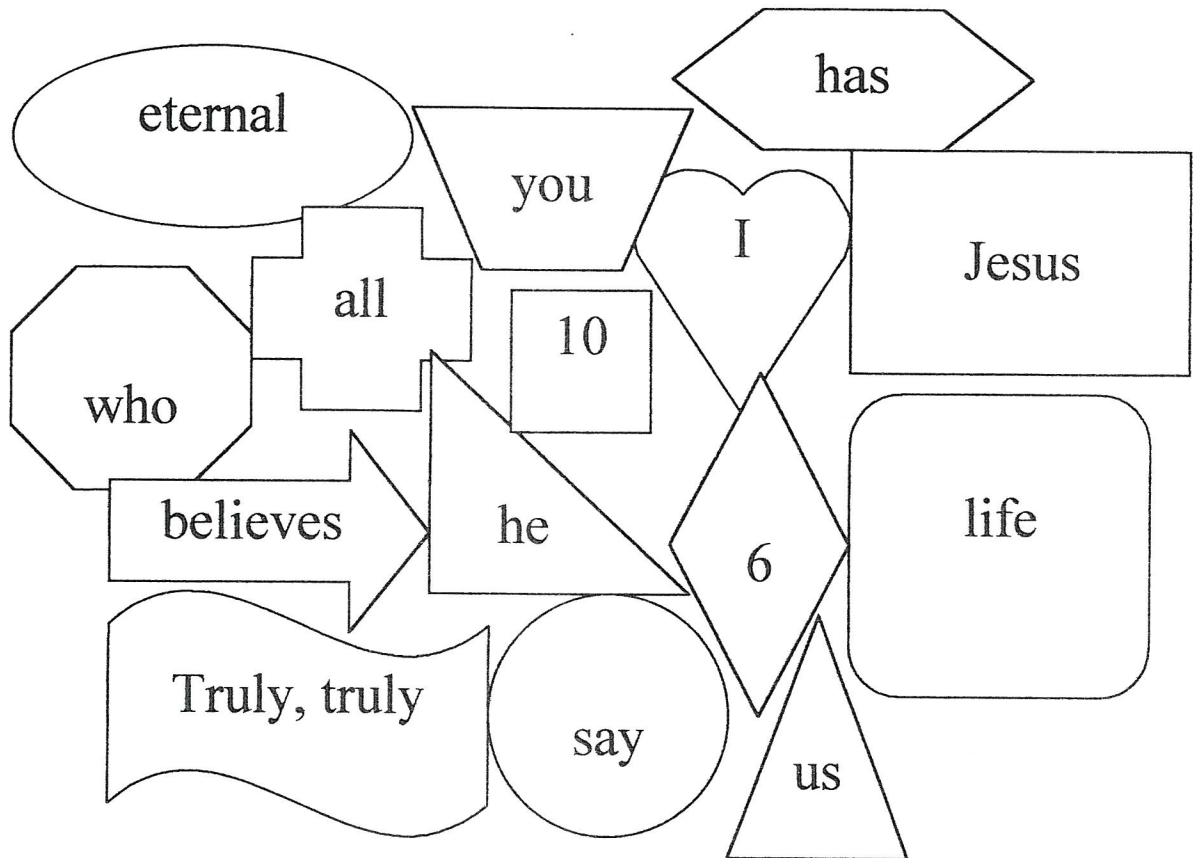
HOW can we show that we love Jesus and help others to become part of God's kingdom?

Circle each correct answer, and cross out each incorrect answer.
Discuss how to correct each incorrect answer.

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|---|--|
| 1. Disobey our parents. | 6. Tell our friends about Jesus. |
| 2. Pray for people who don't know Jesus. | 7. Complain about helping Dad or Mom. |
| 3. Cheat on a test. | 8. Invite a neighbor to church. |
| 4. Say mean things to a friend. | 9. Honor and respect teachers and others in authority. |
| 5. Always tell the truth, even when it is hard to do. | 10. Forgive people who have wronged us. |





The Second Petition: Thy kingdom come.

How is this done? When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word, . . .



Find the shapes above that match the shapes below each blank space. Put the word from the matching shape in the correct blank.

John 6 : 47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he

who believes has eternal life."

