

# YOU'RE INVITED

WEEK 5: MARCH 28 & 29

## BIG IDEA

We're invited to Jesus' party.

## BIBLE

The Guests at the Banquet: Luke 14:7-24 (John 3:16; John 10:10; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

## WHAT?

### COUNTDOWN ▲

Once it is time for class to start, begin the intro video. Instruct kids to clean up and then sit in their designated group spot. As kids sit down, Small Groups Leaders should sit with the kids in their group.

### RULES ▲

1. Listen to your small group leader.
  - Respect your leader and obey what they tell you.
2. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
  - Be a good friend.
3. Have fun!

### ACTIVITY: Draw Your Perfect Party ▲

- This month, we're talking about a party that we're all invited to – a party that's all about worshiping God! Who's ready to party?!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper and crayons and tell them to draw a picture of their perfect party, if they could make up any kind of party, or any kind of holiday celebration for anything they want. It could be a "hairbows and cute shoes party" or a "Rubix cube party" or "lost my first tooth party" or a "dinosaur party." Encourage them to use their imaginations and be creative. Tell them to think about decorations, food, games and any other activities they would do at their party. Let them share their pictures with the group.

### STORY: Share about a time when you weren't invited to a party. ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a leader to share about a time when they weren't invited to a party and how it made them feel.
- Sometimes if we don't get an invitation to a party, we can feel left out or embarrassed. In today's Bible story, we're going to learn that we are *all* invited to Jesus' party.

### THE BIG IDEA: We're invited to Jesus' party. ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
  - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
  - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
  - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
  - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **We're invited to Jesus' party.**

## SO WHAT?

### BIBLE STORY: Luke 14:7-24 ▲

- We've been talking about parties all month. Today, we're going to hear a Bible story about one last party.
- **Who do you think is throwing this party, and what do you think it is the party about?** Let's listen to this Bible story to find out.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- In this Bible story, Jesus told a parable. A parable is a story used to teach people something important. This parable Jesus told was about someone who threw a big dinner party and invited a bunch of people to come.
- But did they show up? No! They all had excuses about why they couldn't come.
- **Do you remember what the master did after the first guests turned down the invitation?** He sent the servant out to the streets to invite people who were outcasts, unimportant, or people in need. They got to enjoy the amazing food and wonderful party.
- **Who do you think the first guests represent?** They represent people who say no to Jesus' invitation to know Him and love Him.
- **What about the second guests who came to the party – who do you think they represent?** The people who came to the banquet were the people who wanted to follow Jesus. They came to Jesus' party!

- We can choose to accept Jesus' invitation to know God. When we do, we get to be special guests at His party!
- Jesus' party is a party where everyone is wanted, everyone is loved, everyone is invited, and everyone can invite their friends too. That's how life with Jesus works. With Jesus, everyone is always invited.
- Even though Jesus invites everyone to come to His party, some people choose not to accept the invitation. **What are some reasons someone might not accept Jesus' invitation?**
- **What does it mean to party with Jesus?** It means that we get to live a life of adventure and fullness as we grow in our relationship with Him here on earth. It also means that we get to spend eternity with God.

### ACTIVITY: A Feast for Sinners ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask for five volunteers to help act out the story about the great banquet in Luke 14:16-24. The rest of the kids will be those who are invited to the banquet at the end of the story. Narrate the story and have the kids act out their parts. Prompt them with their lines, but let them say whatever just as long as it is about being busy and a definite no to the servant. At the end of the story when the master invites all the common people, everyone needs to grab their party hats that were saved from Week 2 to attend the "Great Banquet".
- **Who was supposed to come to the banquet (feast)?** The man's friends.
- **Why didn't his friends want to come to his party?** They said they were too busy with other things. **How do you think that made the man feel?**
- **Who did the man choose to invite instead?** All the common people. People who never went to banquets.
- This parable is about how God invites everyone to His party, but sometimes we choose not to come because we are too busy and focused on things in this world. But if we don't accept His invitation then He will still have a party with anyone willing to come to His banquet. Let's not miss out on God's invitation to worship and live for Him. Let's choose to party with Jesus!
  - **Note: This is a great time to talk to kids about accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.**

### SCRIPTURE: John 3:16 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Open your Bible and encourage the kids to open their Bibles too. Read John 3:16.
- This verse says that God loves the world — that's you and me! He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die so He could take the punishment for our sins. Because of that, we can have a relationship with Him now and forever.
- When we accept the invitation to Jesus' party, it changes our life here on Earth and our life forever.

- **How can accepting the invitation of Jesus change your life right now?**

## The Wedding Guests ▲

- Right now, if you get invited to a party it's probably a birthday party, or Christmas party, or end-of-the-school-year party. But when you get older, you'll probably get invited to another kind of party a lot — weddings!
- This video is about a true story of a bride whose wedding was cancelled at the last minute, but they had already paid for the beautiful cake and all the food. The bride didn't want it to go to waste, so let's see what she did . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video clip](#).
- **How is this true story of a wedding like the parable we heard today?**
- **What do you think the guests at this wedding were feeling?**
- **How did the bride turn something that could have been sad into something good?**
- **What kind of people got to come to the party in the Bible story?**
- Jesus invited everyone to His party — including people who were poor, blind, sick, and homeless. These were all people Jesus cared about and wanted to have a relationship with.
- Nobody is unimportant or unwanted at Jesus' party. We're all invited!

## NOW WHAT?

### OBJECT LESSON: Play the Instrument ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids an instrument (it can be a guitar, flute, drum, harmonica, or anything you have on hand).
- **What's the purpose of this instrument?** Easy! Its purpose is to make music.
- But what happens if all it does is sit there, and nobody ever plays it? **Does it fulfill its purpose?** No! The only way for this instrument to fulfill the purpose for which it was created is to for someone to play it.
- **When we aren't living for God, we are like an instrument just sitting on a shelf** —we aren't living the purpose God has for us.
- But now let me try to play this instrument. (*Play the instrument.*) See? That's a better way to use this instrument!
- Just like this instrument, God wants to do something great through you, but He can only do it if you accept His invitation and follow Him.

### SCRIPTURE: John 10:10 ▲

- We're going to read a verse that explains what God did for us when He sent Jesus to die for us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Open your Bible and encourage the kids to open their Bibles and look up the verse. Read it!*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *See your weekly instructions for a way to teach kids this verse.*
- **What does the enemy come to do?** To steal, kill and destroy. That means make our lives empty and sad.
- **But what did Jesus come to do?** He created us to be in relationship with Him – that is the only way we will have an abundant life.
- **What is an abundant life?** It doesn't mean life will be perfect, but it does mean we will always have God on our side, so no matter what happens, there will always be a reason to celebrate.

### MUSIC: Worship ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**
- While we are worshipping today, think about the invitation Jesus has given us. Have you accepted His invitation? If you haven't, what would it look like for you to say yes to Jesus?

### TALK: RECAP OF THE MONTH ▲

- We've learned so much this month! We've had so much fun partying and talking about worshipping and celebrating God!
  - When we heard the story of Jesus clearing the Temple, we learned **we can worship through prayer.**
  - When we heard the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector, we learned **we can worship by living for God**, instead of ourselves.
  - When we heard the story of Paul and Silas in jail, we learned that **we can worship God during hard times** and that God can give us true joy.
  - When we heard the story of the rocks crying out, we learned that **we can worship God out loud**, and that singing is just one way we can praise Him.
  - And today, when we heard the story of the parable of the guests at the banquet, we learned that **we're all invited to Jesus' party!**

### MEMORY VERSES: John 4:24; Psalm 66:4 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Be creative in helping kids to review the verses!*

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION ▲

- **In the Bible story, who do the first guests who were invited to the party represent?** (*People who don't follow Jesus.*)

- **Why didn't the first guests come to the party?** *(They all had excuses.)*
- **What do you think people use as excuses for not following God?**
- **Who did the master tell the servant to invite when the first guests didn't come?***(People from the streets.)*
- **Who gets invited to the party with Jesus?** *(We're all invited.)*
- **When it comes to living for God, are you more like the first guests or the second guests?**
- **What do you think it means to party with Jesus?**

#### SCRIPTURE: Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **What does the first passage tell us about ourselves?**
- **What are the wages of sin?** *(Death – separation from God forever.)*
- **What is the gift of God? How do we receive His gift?**

#### ACTIVITY: Share the Invitation

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give the kids the Invitation printable from your Week 5 folder and markers or crayons and tell them to make an invitation for some friends and invite them to church.*
- We've been talking about partying with Jesus. **Do you know anyone who needs to know Jesus or needs to come to church?** Let's make invitations and invite them to come to church. Remember, everyone is invited to this party!
- We're starting a fun new series next month, and it's going to be the month we celebrate Easter, so it's a perfect time to invite friends to church.

#### PRAYER

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *Take some time to pray for one another in your small group. Also, have kids think of people who they can pray for who need to hear about Jesus' invitation to His party.*

#### MEMORY VERSES: John 4:24; Psalm 66:4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice the verses together as a group.*

**Points: Kids get points for things listed below. Add weekly points and insert that number next to their name for the given week.** 

- Dot Stickers 10 Points
- Bring your Bible to class 50 Points
- Memorize monthly verses 50 points/verse
- Attend Redeemer's Kids Class 100 Points

- Bring a friend who doesn't attend Redeemer's 100 Points
- **Weekly Postcard Points:** *(Put check mark next to each you've given them points for)*
  - Memorized Weekly Big Idea 50 Points
  - Read Bible Daily 100 Points