

Bible background

Luke 14:15-24

Aim of lesson

To help the children appreciate how wonderful God's kingdom is going to be, and that God wants them to be there.

Preparation required

Draw colourful party food on the table of your activity sheet. Cut the doors off and tape them at the sides so that they open to reveal the party. You will need scissors, colouring materials and tape during the lesson.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children about parties. Who has been to a party? Do they like them? What do they like to eat? Do they like to get an invitation?
2. Talk about Jesus' story of a man who invited lots of people to his party. He got a wonderful meal ready at his house. Let the children peep behind the doors of your house, one door at a time to see the table and identify the food.
3. Tell them that God is like the man who has a party and that he has invited us all to go to his kingdom, which will be better than the best party ever.
4. Tell the children how some people said they were too busy to go; too busy with their farm or new things they had bought. As you tell them, ask the children for ideas about what they might be too busy with.
5. Tell how the man invited other people, and they all had a wonderful party. Stand your activity sheet with the doors open.
6. Sing the song 'God's Planning His Kingdom'.
7. Ask the children to make their own activity sheet with lots of nice party food on the table.

Alternative activities

1. Make some brightly decorated party invitations. You will probably need to do the writing inside in advance but even very young children will enjoy trying to 'write' their name if you leave them a big space.
2. Make party food out of play dough and decorate some paper plates to display it on.
3. Make some party hats, using a broad band of card or sugar paper. Get the children to decorate them with stickers, scraps of paper etc, then tape/staple to fit.
4. Take a few treats e.g. small sweets, biscuits etc to make the lesson really special.

Relevance to the children's lives

Make sure the children have understood that God invites them to be in his kingdom because he wants them there.

Prayer

Ask who wants to say 'thank you' for the invitation.

Verse

How happy are those who will sit at the feast in the Kingdom of God. Luke 14:15 (GNB).

Song

God's Planning His Kingdom (Tune: Do, Lord)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first two lines of the melody, with a G chord above the first measure and a C chord above the fifth measure. The second staff contains the remaining three lines of the melody, with chords G, B7, Em, C7, D7, and G marked above the measures. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

- v.1 God's planning his kingdom Sing first two lines, three times.
And he wants you there - he's invited you.
- v.2 It's like a party
And he wants you there - he's invited you.
- v.3 He's sent out invitations
And he wants you there - he's invited you
- v.4 It's going to be a wonderful time
And he wants you there - he's invited you.
- v.5 Don't be too busy
'Cos he wants you there - he's invited you.

Music: Traditional.