

# The Connection

**Weekly Bible Verse:** Here I am! I stand at the door<sup>d</sup> and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. Revelation 3:20

September 6, 2020

**Together**



Together we can continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

## Excuses, Excuses!

When Adam and Eve sinned God had a plan. He promised them that He would send a Savior that would rescue everyone from their sins. God later promised Abraham that one of his descendants would be the Savior of the World. In the Old Testament the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were chosen by God to be set apart as His people. God gave His laws and promises to His people. God's plan was to use His people to show the world that He is the One True God and they would point others to the Promised Savior when He came to the earth. God had invited His people to be a part of the greatest event that would ever take place.

Hundreds of years passed and His people were still waiting for His promise to be fulfilled. Unfortunately the Jews became very prideful of being God's chosen ones. They didn't always obey Him. Many of them worshiped other gods and rebelled against Him. For many Jewish people it was as though the invitation God had sent them was put in the bottom of a drawer never to be remembered again. God continued to show love and forgiveness to His people. God always keeps His Word and He would send the Promised Savior whether many of His people were still waiting for it to happen or not.



Jesus has been invited to the house of a Pharisee to eat. Because the Pharisees had turned their focus on their own obedience to laws they didn't see God's promise of a Savior right in front of their own eyes. Instead of seeing Jesus as the amazing fulfillment to God's promise they saw Him as their enemy. Instead of working with Jesus to help others come into God's Kingdom, the Pharisees spent their time fighting against Him trying to trick Jesus and prove that He really wasn't God's Son. They were stubborn and hard-hearted. They liked being part of God's chosen but they didn't like Jesus' message in how they were to come to God. They didn't want to come to God through believing in Jesus. They wanted to come by their own righteousness, which was keeping all kinds of laws. Jesus knew their hearts and on the day He was in the home of the Pharisee He told them a parable. A parable is a story to help

the people understand the truth about God and His kingdom.

**Luke 14:15-24**

**The Parable of the Great Banquet**

<sup>15</sup> When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup> At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

<sup>18</sup> "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

<sup>19</sup> "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

<sup>20</sup> "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

<sup>21</sup> "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

<sup>22</sup> "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

<sup>23</sup> "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.' <sup>24</sup> I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

### Additional Pages:

Coloring Page - Parable of the Great Banquet

Word Puzzles - Parable of the Great Banquet

### Resources:

The Parable of the Great Banquet by Saddleback Kids.

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

The Parable of the Great Feast by Gracelink.net  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOUJB9V7aog>



### Questions for Today's Lesson

I wonder what types of excuses we use rather than putting God first.

If God invited you to a banquet as his special guest (to spend time together), what would you do?

Who would you invite to the Banquet and what would you talk about?

## Digging Deeper

### Making the Lesson Come Alive!

- ◆ Create invitations to invite someone to visit Living Water Church.
- ◆ Decorate place-mats for your table.
- ◆ Talk about a time your child made an excuse not to do the right thing.
- ◆ Read some of the invitations we read in the Bible. For example, Matthew 11:28, Mark 1:17, John 7:37.
- ◆ Play a favorite family party game such as pass the parcel, musical statues, or hitting a Piñata.

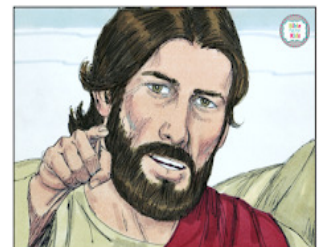
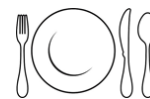


- ◆ Talk to your child about what games they would play in their perfect party.
- ◆ Spend some time cooking or preparing a meal with your child.



introduce basic math skills by counting, measuring, and weighing ingredients. Help your child to follow step by step instructions by reading a recipe. Try to focus on the preparation that needs to take place for a feast to happen. Ask your child how they would feel if they prepared a great feast and no one came.

- ◆ Set your table up with plates, knives, forks, spoons, cups, etc. Have everyone turn around while you remove one item from the table. Your children should then try to figure out what item is missing from the table. Take turns to remove things.
- ◆ Decorate mugs suitable for a great banquet. White mugs can be purchased and children can draw designs using Sharpie pens. Allow to sit for 24 hours. Picture can be fixed in place by baking for 30 minutes at 425 degrees. To prevent cracking place the mugs in the cold oven as it heats up. At the end of 30 minutes, allow mug to cool in the oven.



**Matthew 13:13**

[Jesus answered] Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.