



BIG IDEA

We're invited to Jesus' party.

THE BIBLE

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

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

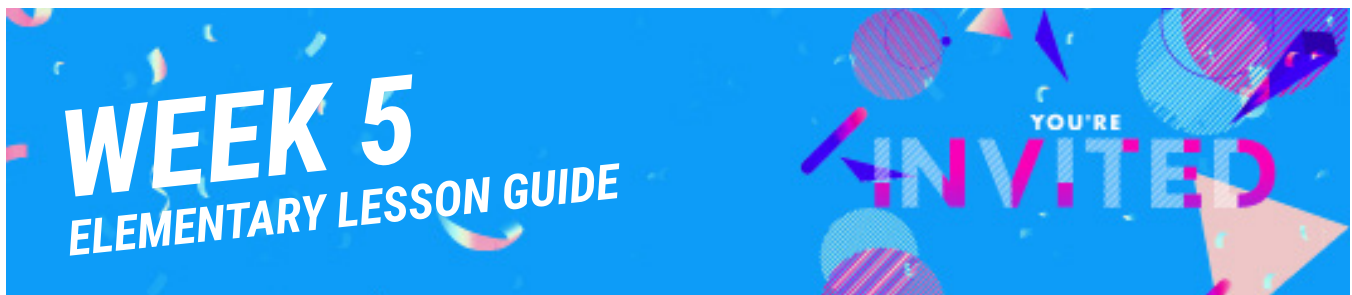
LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Party Hat Guessing Game
- **ACTIVITY** | Set the Table
- **STORY** | Share about a time when you weren't invited to a party.
- **BIG IDEA** | We're invited to Jesus' party.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Luke 14:7-24
- **OBJECT LESSON** | The Dirty Water
- **SCRIPTURE** | John 3:16
- **ACTIVITY** | Donut on a String
- **VIDEO** | The Wedding Guests
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Play the Instrument
- **ACTIVITY** | Reverse Musical Chairs
- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **TALK** | Recap of the Month
- **MEMORY VERSES** | John 1:1; Ephesians 4:29

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- In the Bible story, who do the first guests who were invited to the party represent?
- Why didn't the first guests come to the party?
- 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?
- Who is invited to the party with Jesus?
- 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**
- What does the first passage tell us about ourselves?
- What are the wages of sin?
- What is the gift of God? How do we receive it?
- **ACTIVITY** | Share the Invitation
- **MEMORY VERSES** | John 1:1; Ephesians 4:29



BIG IDEA

We're invited to Jesus' party.

THE 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? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Party Hat Guessing Game

- We've been talking this month about partying for Jesus! We've talked about praising God through prayer, worshiping by how we live, worshiping God during hard times, and we learned about worshiping God out loud.
- Today, we're finishing off our series by learning about a party that had some unexpected guests. Let's start off by playing a game with party hats.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Put three party hats upside down on a table. Set a small piece of candy underneath one of them. Tell the kids to watch the hats closely as you mix them up, then ask them to guess which one has the piece of candy under it.*
- **Was it hard to guess which one had the candy under it?** You might have lost track of the hat with the candy when they were all shuffled.
- Today we're going to hear a Bible story about some party guests who got shuffled around. The people who attended the party in this story weren't the first people invited.

ACTIVITY | Set the Table

- Now who's ready to party? You've probably never been to a dinner party before, but if you have you know there is usually a place setting for each guest at each seat. At some parties, these place settings are fancy and have lots of silverware and plates and bowls.

- Does anyone know how to set a table the fancy way? Let's play a game to see who can do it the best!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set out two sets of place settings at either end of a table. Call up two students and blindfold them. They will have 30 seconds to set their place at the table using the place mat, plate, bowl, cup, knife, fork, spoon, napkin, and play food (if you have some). At the end of 30 seconds, whoever set theirs the best wins. You can play multiple rounds.*

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? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

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.

OBJECT LESSON | The Dirty Water

- **So how do we get to Jesus' party?** How do we accept His invitation?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tape a "sin" label over a bottle of iodine, a "me" label onto a clear glass of water, and a "Jesus" label onto a glass of bleach. Show the kids that glass of water first. As you talk, squirt a few drops of iodine into the glass of water each time you talk about sin. Stir it up. When you talk about Jesus, squirt some bleach into the water and stir until the water becomes clear again.*
- Without Jesus, we can't know God or be near Him, either now or in eternity. That's because God is perfect and we're not.
- We have something inside us called sin. It's what makes us do things we shouldn't do.
- We sin any time we think of ourselves before others, disobey our parents, hurt someone else, steal someone's toy, get greedy, or say mean things. We all sin because we're born with sin in our hearts.
- Like our hearts, this water has gotten very dirty. But is there anything we can do to clean it? Not on our own.
- The only way we can get rid of our sin is by asking Jesus to forgive us and accepting His invitation to be His best friend.
- Jesus was perfect. He never sinned. So when He died on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins because He loved us. Now all we have to do is accept His invitation and let Him wash away our sins.
- **When we choose to live for Jesus and let Him be our best friend, we get to live our best life here on earth and party with Jesus forever with Him.**

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 Jesus' party, it changes our life here on earth and our life forever, even after we die!
- **How can accepting Jesus' party invitation change your life right now?**

ACTIVITY | Donut on a String

- I don't know what kinds of games we'll play at Jesus' party in heaven, but one of my favorite party games is the Donut on a String game. Let's see how good your donut eating skills are!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose three pairs of students to play, but check for food allergies first. One partner will get on their knees (or have their partners stand on chairs) while their partners hold the donuts on strings above them. When you say, "Go," they will try to eat their donuts without using their hands. The first one to eat the whole donut wins.
- **Was it hard to eat the donut while it was on the string?**
- **What would have made eating your donut easier?**
- Eating a donut, even without your hands, is pretty easy compared to other things we try to do and accomplish.
- We talked earlier this month about how living for Jesus is one way we can worship Him. **What would make it easier for you to live for Jesus every day?**
- **How is living for Jesus like a party every day?**

VIDEO | 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 canceled 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? *What does God want us to do about it?*

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.

ACTIVITY | Reverse Musical Chairs

- In the Bible story, the party guests got shuffled around. The first people invited weren't the ones who ended up coming, and the people who came were the people who some would have said were unimportant. It was all backward!
- Let's play a backwards version of a fun party game: reverse musical chairs.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instead of walking around in a circle, the kids will scoot on the floor. When the music stops, they have to stand up quickly. The last person to stand up is out. Keep playing until you have a winner.*

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. Read John 10:10.*
- **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:** *Spend some time singing together. You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "I Came to Party," by The Lads and "My Best Friend," by Hillsong Kids.*
- While we are worshiping 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 worshiping 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 1:1; Ephesians 4:29

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

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.

MEMORY VERSES | John 1:1; Ephesians 4:29

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.