

Party Planning in Paradise: Parable of the Wedding Feast Lesson Plan

Opening Game for the Parable of the Wedding Feast Lesson Plan

Start this lesson plan by playing [Invitation Relay](#). This relay not only offers a fun, competitive challenge for the youth but also parallels the essence of the parable. As participants race to accept and act upon various “invitations”, we’re reminded of the continual invitations from God and the importance of our responses to them. [Explore the full game details here](#).

Follow up with a few questions:

- How did you feel when you opened the envelope and saw your task? Did it remind you of any real-life situations where you felt uncertain or unprepared?
- Did you notice any hesitation among team members when picking up or acting on the invitations? Why do you think that is, and how can it relate to hesitations we might have in our spiritual lives?
- How did it feel when your team completed all the tasks? Can this sense of accomplishment be likened to fulfilling God’s call or expectations?

After wrapping up our “Invitation Relay” game, let’s shift gears a bit and consider a more personal scenario. Imagine the excitement and responsibility that comes with planning a major event. The decisions you make, the people you invite, and the atmosphere you create can determine the success of the event. With that in mind, let’s delve into a hypothetical situation that many of you might find intriguing. Your parents are letting you throw a party. You can invite as many friends as you like and your budget is unlimited.

- Where would your party be held?
- Would there be a theme?
- What sort of entertainment or activities would you have?
- What food would you want to have?
- . Will there be a dress code?
- Should guests bring anything?
- Do you want to hint at any special activities or surprises in store?
- Any other plans?

Spend some time brainstorming the party. Let them be over the top extravagant.

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With your party details all set, the next step is getting the word out to your friends and loved ones. Crafting the perfect invitation is more than just conveying the time and place; it's about setting the tone for the event and building anticipation. What would your invitations look like? (If time permits, give them each a notecard and some materials to create an invitation.)

Fast forward two weeks. The invitations have all been sent. Some people have not replied at all or said anything to you about your party. Others have replied that they can't come and made excuses. So far, you haven't had one positive response. A couple people who you thought were your friends went so far as to insult you. They said the party didn't sound like much fun and so there was no way they were coming.

- How do these responses make you feel?
- Would you consider reaching out personally to those who haven't responded?
- How important is the presence of invitees to the overall success of your party?
- Would you consider postponing or altering the party details based on the responses?
- Do you feel there's a difference between not receiving a response and receiving a decline? Why or why not?
- What would you do next?

Scripture Reading for the Parable of the Wedding Feast Lesson Plan

Now read the parable of the wedding feast ([Matthew 22:1-14](#))

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.

A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.

[Matthew 22:1-14](#)

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Discussion for the Parable of the Wedding Feast Lesson Plan

Matthew 22:1-14 reminds us that God has prepared a great feast for us. We get a little taste of the heavenly banquet when we go to Mass. But sometimes we are distracted by other things. What are some things which can keep us from attending Sunday Mass?

Let the youth share examples here. If they are reluctant, give some generic examples of what keep people from coming to Mass.

- Sleeping in
- Sports or other activities
- It isn't interesting

What are some ways we can help each other attend the Eucharistic feast?

- Go with a friend
- Try a different mass time
- Plan ahead and find a mass that fits into our schedules...

This reading from Matthew 22:1-14 also has a second part. God also wants us to be ready and prepared. The guest who showed up without a wedding garment did not feel that the event was important enough to make the effort to prepare. What are some ways we can prepare for Mass?

- Read the readings ahead of time
- Dress appropriately
- Fast before communion
- Go to confession if it has been a while

Not only will these things show our respect for the Eucharist. They just might also help us be more engaged in the Mass.

Reflection Questions for the Parable of the Wedding Feast Lesson Plan

- Why do you think the Parable of the Wedding Feast was significant during biblical times, and how does its relevance persist today?
- Can you recall a time when you felt like you received a "divine invitation"? How did you respond?
- What are some modern-day distractions that might be equivalent to the excuses given in the parable? How can we navigate them?
- How do you personally prepare for significant events in your life? Can you draw any parallels to preparing for Mass?

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- Are there any personal rituals or practices you've found helpful in staying engaged during Mass? Share with the group.
- Reflect on a Mass experience that was particularly memorable or moving for you. What made it stand out?
- How can we support one another in making Mass a priority, given the myriad of other commitments we face?

Challenge for the Parable of the Wedding Feast Lesson Plan

The notion of Mass as a celebration is rooted in the belief that it's a joyous gathering where we come together in communion with God and each other. The Mass is not just a routine or obligation; it's a festive union of souls rejoicing in God's love. It's a time to commemorate the blessings we've received, the challenges we've overcome, and the hope that lies ahead.

This week, do something extra to prepare for Mass. Go with some friends. Organize a breakfast or brunch afterward, turning it into a full-fledged celebration. Sharing reflections or discussing the sermon can be a meaningful way to bond.

Remember that this party isn't an ordinary one. It's a party planned by God Himself. He eagerly waits for each one of us, hoping we join in the celebration. By embracing this mindset and taking a few extra steps, you can transform your Mass experience into a celebration of faith, love, and community.

Prayer for the Parable of the Wedding Feast Lesson Plan

Close with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, guide us in recognizing and honoring Your constant invitations in our lives. Strengthen our resolve to always be prepared, both in heart and spirit, for the eternal celebration You've set before us. As we journey through the week, let us carry with us the joy and commitment of the Mass, seeing it as the divine celebration it truly is. Amen.

Resources

[More Themes](#)

[Background Material](#)

[Music Suggestions](#)

[More Youth Ministry Lesson Plans and Reflections](#)

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