Preschool–Grade 6

The Great Supper

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God invites everyone. When God calls, come!
Bible passage: Luke 14:15–24. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready." *Luke 14:17 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, masking tape, 5 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 5 paper strips (see part 4). Make a big house outline on the floor with masking tape (for part 6). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 14:17.

1. Opening game: Come, It's Ready! (5 minutes)

Kids stand along one wall. You stand at the other side. When you call, "Come; for all things are now ready!" they walk quickly to you. If you call anything else ("Come; the cat is sleeping!" "Come; it's snowing!"), they stay still. Anyone who moves goes back to the wall. Play a few rounds. Say: "You came as soon as I called! Today Jesus tells a story about people who were invited to a big supper, and what they did when it was ready."

2. Bible story: Come; All Things Are Ready (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 14, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

One day Jesus was eating at a man's house (Luke 14:1). Someone at the table said, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God" (14:15). So Jesus told a story.

A certain man made a **great supper**, a big dinner, and he **bade** many people. That means he invited them (14:16). When the supper was ready, he sent his **servant**, a helper, to tell everyone, "Come; for all things are now ready" (14:17).

But all the people began to make **excuses**, reasons why they would not come (14:18). The first man said he had bought a piece of ground, a field, and he had to go and see it. He asked to be excused (14:18). The next man said he had bought five yoke of oxen, and he was going to try them out. Oxen are big strong animals that pull a plow, and a **yoke** is a pair of them, so that was ten oxen (14:19)! Another man said he had married a wife, "and therefore I cannot come" (14:20).

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The story continues: The servant came back and told his master what they said (14:21). The master was angry. He said, "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city." He told the servant to bring in the poor, people who were hurt, people who could not walk well, and people who were blind (14:21). The servant did it. Then he said, "Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room" (14:22). There was still room at the supper!

So the master said, "Go out into the highways and hedges," out on the roads and along the bushes in the country, and bring people in, "that my house may be filled" (14:23). The master wanted his house full of guests. But the men who made excuses did not get to taste his supper (14:24). They missed it, because they would not come.

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What did the man make? *(A great supper, Luke 14:16)*
2. What did the servant tell the people who were invited? *("Come; for all things are now ready," 14:17)*
3. What did the invited people do? *(They all made excuses, 14:18)*
4. Who did the servant bring in from the streets and lanes? *(The poor, the maimed, the halt and the blind, 14:21)*
5. Was there still room? *(Yes, "yet there is room," 14:22)*

4. Memory verse: Five Strips game (5 minutes)

Tape the 5 strips up in order: *And sent his servant at supper time / to say to them that were bidden, / Come; / for all things are now ready. / Luke 14:17.* Explain the old word: **bidden** means invited. Read the verse together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God is inviting you to come to Him! God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when God's Word or your parents call you to pray or come to church, come right away, with no excuses. Invite a friend to church.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **great supper word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/great-supper-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/great-supper-craft), or **Fill the House:** the tape outline is the master's house. One child is the servant. The servant goes to the "streets and lanes" (one side of the room) and says to a friend, "Come; for all things are now ready!" Each friend who is invited walks into the house and becomes a servant too. Then go out to the "highways and hedges" (the other side of the room). Keep going until everyone is in the house. Say: "The master wanted his house filled (Luke 14:23). God wants everyone to come!"

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for inviting us to come to You. Help us come when You call, with no excuses. Help us invite others, too. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

About the guests: Jesus names "the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind" (Luke 14:21). Say it kindly: the master wanted them at his supper. God loves every person, and we invite people others leave out (14:13).

About "being angry" (14:21) and verse 14:24: keep it simple. The master was angry because the people he invited would not come, and they missed his supper. God wants everyone to come.

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