

December 3
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
WE ARE PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM
Matthew 22; Luke 14

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Heaven is like a great wedding feast, and Jesus invites everyone to come. Jesus makes a place for people who say yes to His invitation, and they can be with Him forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom.

KEY PASSAGE: Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory ... for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you. 1 Chronicles 29:11

Key Passage Phrase: Jesus shows us what God is like. John 1:18

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Ask preschoolers to recall times when they were invited to a party. Ask them if they ever had a reason or excuse why they could not attend? Talk about reasons why a person may not be able to attend a party.

SAY *The last few weeks we have learned that Jesus taught about God when He was on earth. Jesus told stories to teach the people about God's kingdom. Today, we will hear about a time that Jesus told a story about a wedding feast. A king invited people to the party, but the people did not come. Listen closely to find out what the king did to get people to come to the party.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at 1 Chronicles 29:11. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Practice clapping twice while saying the words "greatness," "power," and "glory." Read aloud the verse, "Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory ... for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you." Say the verse several times while prompting preschoolers to clap twice when hearing each of the three designated words.

SAY *The name Lord is another name for God. God is great and powerful. God's Son is Jesus. Jesus is the Savior of the world. Jesus makes a place for all of us who say yes to His invitation, and we can be with Him forever.*

4. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. Who told a story about a great wedding feast? (*Jesus*)
3. Why did the king decide to invite good and bad people to the feast? (*The people invited did not come, so he decided to invite anyone who wanted to come.*)
4. Why did Jesus tell this story about the wedding feast? (*Heaven is like a great wedding feast, and Jesus invites everyone to come. Jesus makes a place for people who say yes to His invitation, and they can be with Him forever.*)

5. What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom.

SAY Jesus told a story about a great wedding feast planned by a king. A feast is a big meal for a celebration. The king's son was getting married, and many people were invited to the celebration. However, the people who were invited did not want to come to the feast. The king sent his servants out to invite everyone they saw to come. Both good and bad people were invited, and they all came to the feast. God offers everyone a chance—when they make right or wrong choices—He loves everyone and gives everyone the same invitation. Heaven is like a great wedding feast, and Jesus invites everyone to come. Jesus makes a place for people who say yes to His invitation, and they can be with Him forever.

5. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY God, thank You for loving us. We praise You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to make the way for us to be with Him forever. Thank You that Jesus invites everyone to come and that He makes a place for people who say yes to His invitation. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE AS FEW AS ONE ACTIVITY OR USE ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES)

MAKE AN INVITATION

Demonstrate for preschoolers how to fold construction paper in half to make a card. Invite boys and girls to decorate their cards with crayons and washable markers. Ask preschoolers if they would like for you to write *You are invited* on their cards. Encourage boys and girls to give their invitations to someone they would like to invite to the Christmas Eve Service.

SAY I like the invitation you made. We give invitations to people when we want to invite them to do something with us or go somewhere with us. Jesus told a story about a king who invited people to a wedding feast. The king sent out his servants to gather the people he invited two times, but they did not come. Finally, the king invited everyone. Jesus invites everyone to come to God's kingdom. Jesus makes a place for people who say yes to His invitation, and they can be with Him forever.

LEAD AND INVITE FRIENDS TO FOLLOW

Ask a preschooler to follow you around the room. One by one, invite each of the other preschoolers to join and follow. To add variety as you move, consider walking slowing, taking small steps, clapping hands, or waving hands above your head. Suggest the children follow your movements as you walk around the room. To extend the activity, designate a child to be a leader and invite each of the children to follow him around the room. Repeat the activity as time allows, giving each child a turn to lead and invite.

SAY We played a game and invited our friends to follow. We learned today about a king who planned a feast for his son's wedding. Many people who were invited did not want to come to the feast. The king sent his servants out to invite everyone they saw to come. Both good and bad people were invited, and they all came to the feast. Heaven is like a great wedding feast, and Jesus invites everyone to come. Jesus makes a place for people who say yes to His invitation, and they can be with Him forever.

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE (please send this home with parents)

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, emphasize the THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY The last few weeks we have learned the answer to an important question, **What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom.** Jesus told people stories to teach them about God's kingdom. One day, Jesus told the people a story about a wedding feast. God's kingdom is like a great wedding feast. Jesus said, 'Many people are invited to God's kingdom, but only a few will come.'

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Matthew 22. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

WE ARE PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM

STORYTELLING TIPS

Decorate for a party: Before class, decorate an area of the classroom for a party or wedding. Tell the Bible story in the decorated space.

Show props: Show props while telling today's Bible story such as a crown, an invitation, and a basket of toy food. Show the crown when mentioning the king, the invitation when mentioning those invited to the party, and the basket of toy food when talking about the feast.

Jesus told people stories to teach them about God's kingdom. **One day, Jesus told a story about a wedding feast. Jesus said, "A king's son was getting married, so the king planned a big wedding feast."** The feast would have plenty of food and drinks for everyone. **It would be a great party for the king's son and his bride.**

Jesus said, "The king sent out his servants to find the people who were invited. The servants told the people that the feast was ready! Then they came back to the king, but the guests did not come with them. The servants told the king that the guests did not want to come to the feast.

"The king sent out his servants again. The servants told the guests that the king's feast was ready and the king was serving the best food. **'Dinner is ready! Come to the wedding feast!' the servants said.**

"But the people still did not listen to the king's message. The king told his servants, 'They do not deserve to come to my feast. Go out to the streets and invite everyone you see.'

"So the servants did what the king asked. They **went out** to the streets **and invited all the people they saw—good people and bad people. All the people came to the feast.** But the king came in and saw a man who was not wearing the right clothes for a wedding.

"The king said to the man, 'Friend, how did you get into the party without the right clothes?' The man did not know what to say. The king told his servants to take the man and throw him out."

Finally, Jesus said, "Many people are invited to God's kingdom, but only a few will come."

Christ Connection: Heaven is like a great wedding feast, and Jesus invites everyone to come. Jesus makes a place for people who say yes to His invitation, and they can be with Him forever.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

December 3
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds
WE ARE PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM
Matthew 22; Luke 14

CHRIST CONNECTION: One day, Jesus will come back and set up His kingdom forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Lord, You are great and powerful. 1 Chronicles 29:11

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCTORY GROUP TIME ACTIVITY: LEAD AND INVITE FRIENDS TO FOLLOW

Ask a preschooler to follow you around the room. One by one, invite each of the other preschoolers to join and follow. To add variety as you move, consider walking slowing, taking small steps, clapping hands, or waving hands above your head. Suggest the children follow your movements as you walk around the room.

SAY *We played a game and invited our friends to follow. We learned today about a king who planned a feast for his son's wedding. Many people who were invited did not want to come to the feast. The king sent his servants out to invite everyone they saw to come. Both good and bad people were invited, and they all came to the feast. Heaven is like a great wedding feast, and Jesus invites everyone to come. Jesus makes a place for people who say yes to His invitation, and they can be with Him forever.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

ACTIVITIES

SING A HYMN

Sing to the tune "B-I-N-G-O":

"God invites us into His kingdom to live with Him forever.

G-O-D's kingdom! G-O-D's kingdom! G-O-D's kingdom!

To live with Him forever!"

SAY *Where are we invited? God's kingdom! For how long? Forever! Jesus told the story of the wedding feast to teach about God's kingdom. Lots of people were invited to the feast, but only a few came. Jesus invites everyone to live with Him forever.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY *A king planned a big wedding feast with lots of food. He invited lots of people to celebrate, but the people he invited didn't come. The king decided to invite even more people. Jesus invites us into God's kingdom. Jesus wants us to live with Him forever.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Jesus told people stories to teach them about God's kingdom. One day, Jesus told a story about a wedding feast. Jesus said, "A king's son was getting married, so the king planned a big wedding feast. The king's servants went out and told the people who were invited that the feast was ready. But the people did not come. The king told his servants, 'Go out to the streets and invite everyone you see.' So the servants went out and invited all the people they saw—good people and bad people." Then Jesus said, "Many people are invited to God's kingdom, but only a few will come."

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.