

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 26
The Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. All of the Word is a parable -- a story with a hidden meaning.
- B. The Lord wants to give His truth and good to us all.
- C. We shouldn't be so absorbed in our daily activities that we neglect thinking about the Lord and reading His Word.
- D. All power to do what is right is from the Lord alone; it is He who delivers us from evil. We are not self-sufficient.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

1. Our story begins with the Lord going to eat bread in the house of a Pharisee. Do you remember who the Pharisees were? (They were a group of Jews who pretended to follow all the laws very carefully and claimed to be more religious than other people.) The Pharisees pretended to be good, but they were bad. They were hypocrites! They wanted to find something wrong with Jesus so people would stop listening to Him and would come to them for answers instead. Jesus was willing to talk with them and to eat in their homes even though they were bad people. So He went into the home of a Pharisee to eat bread.
2. While the Lord was there. He healed a sick man even though it was the Sabbath day. And He spoke to the Pharisees about being humble when He noticed that the Pharisees all chose the best places to sit. One of the men who sat at the table with the Lord said, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus told him a parable about a great supper. Let's listen to that story now.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read aloud Luke 14:15-24.

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. What did the man have his servant do? (Tell the invited guests that the supper was now ready)
2. What excuse did the first man give? ("I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it.)

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3. What was another excuse? ("I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them.")
4. What was the last excuse? ("I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.")
5. How did the master feel when he heard the excuses? (Angry)
6. What did the master do? (He sent the servant to bring in the poor people, the maimed, the lame, and the blind.)
7. When there was still room, what did the master tell the servant to do? (Force people to come in to fill his house)
8. And what did the master say? ("None of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.")

D. Further Ideas

1. This story is a parable. That means it has a hidden meaning. Can you guess whom the man who gave the great supper means? (The Lord) He has prepared a great supper for our spiritual minds, a supper of truth and love. When we read the Word and go to church, it is like going to a great supper where the Lord can give us the spiritual food He has prepared for us.
2. If the Lord stood in the church each Sunday inviting you to come, would you go? What if the Lord stood before you with the Word in His hand and invited you to read the wonderful ideas in it? Would you say that you would rather play or that you have work to do? Would you say that you know enough already? Or would you say that you don't want to know the true ideas from the Word? Would you make excuses the way the guests made excuses in the parable? Or would you accept the Lord's invitation to His supper?
3. Do you know who are meant by the poor, the maimed (crippled), the lame, and the blind? They are the people who know they need the Lord. They want to learn His truth and have His help. When things are going well for us, it's easy to forget that we need the Lord. But when we have a problem or are sick, it's easier to remember the Lord and to ask Him for help. We should try to remember the Lord all the time, shouldn't we?

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "All that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
2. "May we learn, O Lord of life," HYMNAL #219.
3. "See the Savior in the temple," HYMNAL #166.

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B. Activities: Act out the parable of the great supper

1. Materials: tablecloth, paper plates and cups, plastic spoons, serving dishes, toothpicks, flowers, fruit juice, pitcher for Juice, carrot sticks, raisins, crackers, cheese cubes, bananas, apples, etc. – a variety of food; and so on
2. Preparation: After discussing the story, suggest to the children that it was very foolish of the invited guests to refuse the master's invitation. Then tell them that they are going to prepare a feast and act out today's story. Let the children put the toothpicks into the cheese chunks, cut up the fruit and Insert toothpicks, or mix cut-up fruit in a serving dish. They put the food onto serving dishes, set the table, arrange the flowers, and put juice into the pitcher. When all is ready, act out the story.
3. Act out the story: One child will be "a certain man," others will be his servant, the man who had bought ground, the man who had oxen, and the man who married a wife. The rest of the children can choose to be poor, maimed, lame, or blind (as many as there are in the class). Read the story aloud and have the children go through the motions. When you reach the part where the servant must compel people to come and fill the house, the three who had originally made excuses and not come can play these parts, and thus the whole class will be seated at the table for the great supper.

C. Project Ideas

1. Have children draw the great supper with the host and the poor, lame, maimed, and blind people who came to the feast. Don't forget to put lots of food on the table for the guests!
2. Make a picture of the Lord holding the open Word, inviting us to read His words to us. Texts for this picture could be one of these:

"Come to Me" (Matthew 11:28).

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink" (John 7:37).

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the Lord teaching people.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 5, "The Great Supper" (Luke 14), pp. 273-286.
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. V, Luke 14.