

The Great Party

Light a candle and remember the presence of God is with you.

Lay out the green felt underlay or piece of paper.

Cut out the pieces to help you tell this story.

Jesus told us sacred stories called parables.

Sacred means that something is extra special.

Jesus was extra special and so were the stories he told.

The extra special stories Jesus told were messages about how to love God and love each other.

Let us wonder how *this* parable helps us love. (Pause.)

This story goes a little like this...
It was the most special invitation to a really big REALLY BIG party!

Lots of people were invited. But many people did not come. They had *lots* of excuses.

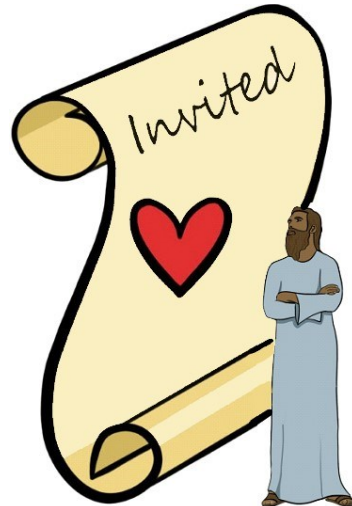
"I really want to come, BUT I have to water my plants," one person said.

Place the plants outside on the underlay.



"I really want come, BUT I need to take care of my animals," another person said.

Place the animal outside of the underlay.



"I really want to come, BUT I am married and need to be home," said another.

So many people were just *too busy* to go to the party.

Place the rings outside the underlay.

The host of the party was upset that no one wanted to come to the party. The host had put so much work into making it special for everyone!

The host then decided to send out more invitations!

Strangers were invited!

People who were poor were invited!

People who were sick were invited!

Children were invited!



People that usually never get invited to a party were invited to the great party!

Place the people around the table.



It was so special!

Wondering with God's Story

I wonder...

- ... how this parable helps us love?
- ... what a Great Party feels like?
- ... if the guests have names?
- ... why some people came to the party and some did not?
- ... how many people can sit around the table?
- ... where you are in this parable?

Working with God's Story



1. Have each person retell the story without reading the words.
Just use items.

2. Find the story in your Bible and highlight it. You can also look in a Storybook Bible or online.

3. Ask the wondering questions more than once. Dinner? Car? Bedtime?

Check the "Weekly Faith FITness Plan" card.

Illustrator: Nicole Lapointe
Images: Lauren Knipper

The Great Party



Come close to this story/parable of Jesus.

Luke 14:21b-23

(Common English Version)

"Go as fast as you can to every street and alley in town!
Bring in everyone who is poor or crippled
or blind or lame."

When the servant returned, he said, "Master, I've done
what you told me, and there is still plenty
of room for more people."

His master then told him, "Go out along the back roads
and fence rows and make people come in,
so that my house will be full."



Ministries Across Generations
docfamiliesandchildren.org

Disciples Home Missions
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

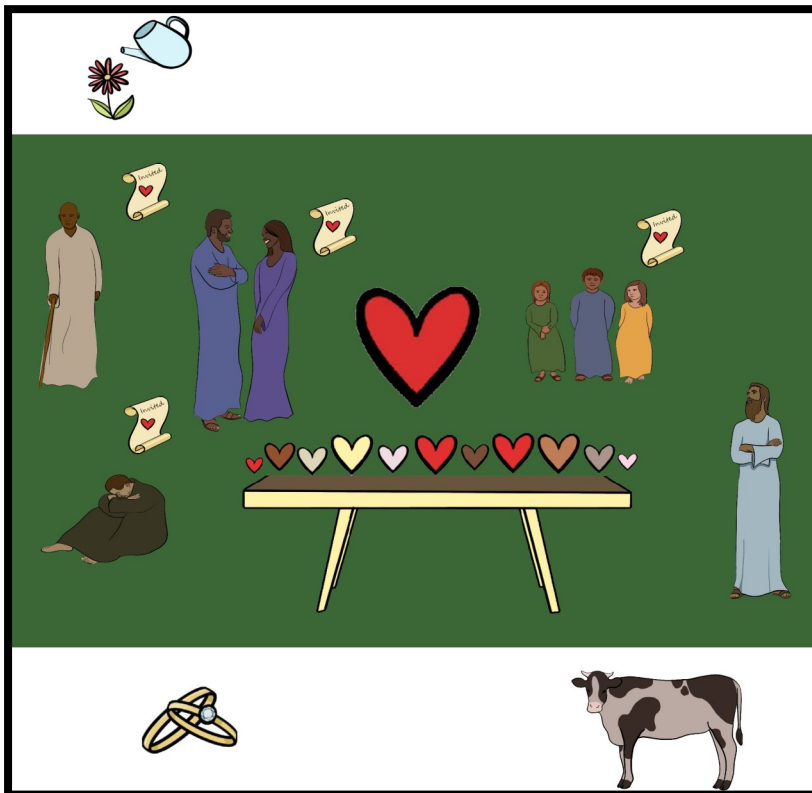


Working with the Story (Parable)

We invite you to “work” with the story in both traditional and creative ways.

1. Cut out pieces.
2. Set out your underlay (green felt or construction paper) with all the pieces ready to use next to it.
3. As you tell/hear the story, use the pieces to build the scene.
4. Are there more pieces you want to add? More people? More invites?

*I wonder if the story has all it needs?
Can you tell the story differently?*



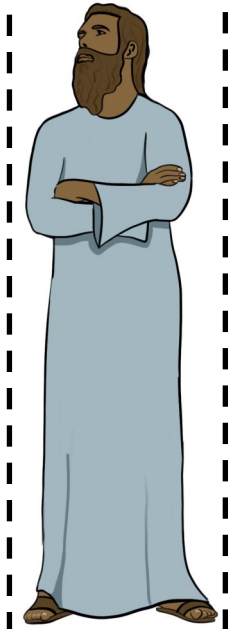
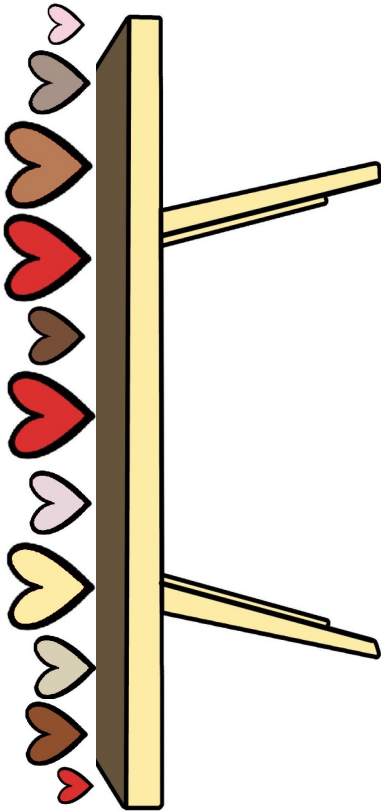
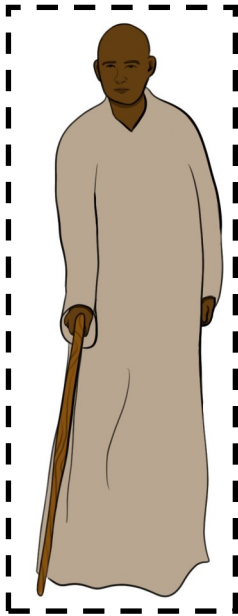
Draw the Parable

Family Prayer

There are so many ways to pray. This week's prayer challenge is to write a family prayer that pays attention to how and who helps get food to your tables.

Thank you for the food that we eat. . .

Amen.



Who will you invite?

