



Lesson 1: “I’m Invited”

3-5 In-Person Crew Club Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	God has sent me a great invitation!
<u>Bible Verse</u>	“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12, NLT).
<u>Bible Passage</u>	“The Great Dinner Party” (Luke 14:12-24).
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A device to play music ● Handout 1, one copy ● Handout 2, one copy ● A stack of newspapers and/or magazines ● Kid-friendly scissors, one per student ● Props for the skit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A table ○ Party decorations (optional) ○ Party snacks and small plates

Relate (20 minutes)

Welcome and Snack

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- Ask children to share a **God Sighting**: Where have they seen God at work in their school or in their home? What is one thing they can celebrate or praise God for in the past week?
- Have children take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the “How Are You Feeling?” chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

- Open a discussion with the question: “How does it make you feel to receive an invitation?”

Play a Game

Secret Dancer

For this game, you will need a device that can play music. Choose one student to leave the room or close their eyes. They will be the guesser. When that student leaves the room or has their eyes closed, select a student to be the “secret dancer.” That student will incorporate dance moves into the song, and the rest of the group has to imitate their dance moves. Once the music has started and the dancing begins, the guesser returns to the group (or opens their eyes) and tries to guess who the secret dancer is. Once the guesser correctly identifies the secret dancer, select a different student to be the guesser and the secret dancer.



Receive (20 minutes)

Receive God’s Word.

How many of you have gone to a party before? Before you go to the party, what do you have to receive first?

Take student responses.

That’s right! You need an invitation! The theme for our next six weeks together is about an invitation that we can receive from God. Did you know that God has an invitation for you and me? God is inviting us into his kingdom and into his family so that we can experience and receive the gift of salvation and life with him! The best part is, God sent Jesus, his own Son, as his invitation! Anyone who receives Jesus and accepts him gets to be a part of God’s kingdom and God’s family!

Jesus came to earth to show us what it looks like to live in the kingdom of God as a son of God and in close relationship with God. He also gave up his life to take on the punishment that we should have received for our sins. Jesus also came back to life again so that he could offer us new life in God’s presence and power, now and forever. When we accept and receive God’s invitation, all that Jesus offers is available to us. But we’ll talk more about this later!

First, what does it look like to accept God’s invitation, to say yes to what he is offering to us through his Son? Jesus actually told a story about this very thing, let’s act out the story to see if we uncover an answer.

For the following skit, you will need to ask each student to take one of the following roles. Each role has a speaking part:

- The host
- The servant
- The invited guests (Six students are needed.)

Preparation: Cut out the invitations Handouts 1 and 2 and fold along the dotted line. These will be used by the student playing the role of the servant when they deliver invitations to the party. (Make sure to separate the accepted and declined invitations.) Then, set up a table and decorate with party decorations if desired. Prepare a party snack and place it on the table.

The host (to the servant): **I'm going to throw a dinner party. Would you help me get everything ready and deliver the invitations? I already have in mind those I would like to invite.**

The servant: **Tell me what needs to be done, and I will do it.**

The host: **Prepare an extravagant meal with the best foods and drinks. No one who comes should leave unsatisfied, hungry or thirsty, otherwise I'd be an dishonorable host! Don't forget to send the invitations, I can't wait to share these good things with my closest friends!**

A week later...

The servant: **Master, everything is ready. The dinner table is set, the food is warm, and the drinks are almost filled to overflowing! There is even a table full of tasty desserts!**

The host: **Go out and tell everyone I have invited to come, for the dinner is ready!**

Give the student playing the role of servant the three declined invitations and ask them to give the invitations to three students. Ask each student who receives the invitation to read the back of the invite in response. These responses are also copied below:

Invited guest #1: **"I bought a new gaming system, I need to try it out to see if it works. I'm sorry, I can't come!"**

Invited guest #2: **"I just made some new friends, I'm going to spend some time with them. Please excuse me."**

Invited guest #3: **"I won't be able to attend. I've just got too much to do right now!"**

Then, the servant returned back to the host to report what happened.

The servant (to the host): **The guests whom you have invited have declined your invitation with excuses. They've got things to do and places to be. What should we do?**

The host: **Well then, go quickly into the city and invite anyone you find there. Bring in those who are poor, blind and can't walk, they'll come to my dinner. I can't let this wonderful feast go to waste! And if there's still room, go out to those who live far out in the country and urge them to come to the party.**

Give the student playing the role of servant the three accepted invitations and ask them to give the invitations to three students. Ask each student who receives the invitation to read the back of the invite in response. These responses can also be found below.

Invited guest #4 **I've been invited?! I can't believe this! I can't even pay this man back! I will definitely come to the party!**

Invited guest #5 **I've never been invited to a dinner party like this before, I've never felt so honored. Count me in!**

Invited guest #6 **A party with the best food and drink...that sounds so wonderful. I can't tell you the last time I've had a nice warm meal. I'll be there!**

So those who said yes to the invitation came to the dinner party, ate and were satisfied!

Invite the students who played the role of the guests who accepted the invitation to come to the table and enjoy the party snacks.

In this story, there were two different responses to the invitation that was given. Some said no and rejected the invitation and some accepted the invitation.

Open a discussion:

- **Why did people say no to the invitation? What was the consequence of their decision?** (They had other things that they thought were more important than coming to the party. The consequence was they missed out on the party!)
- **Who said yes to the invitation? Why do you think they had that**

response? What was the result of their decision? (The poor, blind and those who couldn't walk said yes to the invitation. They said yes because they saw the value in what was being offered to them. Their decision to accept the invitation resulted in enjoyment at the dinner party.)

God invites everyone into his kingdom, but only those who receive the invitation and accept it will get to experience life with God in his kingdom now and forever! Everyone receives the invitation, but not everyone accepts the invitation! Do you want to accept God's invitation?

(At this time, you may want to pass out snacks and treats to the students who didn't receive any.)



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God's truth.

Receiving an invitation is important because without it, we don't even have the option to attend the party or the event. If God didn't send Jesus to us, we wouldn't even have an invite to God's kingdom in the first place!

Receiving this invitation is not up to us, we need God to invite us. The good news is God has invited us: he's invited the whole world!

When we receive God's invitation, there is something we have to do: we have to say yes! Why? Well, when we're invited to a party, if we don't say yes and attend when the celebration is happening, we can't enjoy the food, the cake, the party games or the company! We can't enjoy God's great invitation without saying yes and coming to Jesus!

Those who said no to the invitation in today's story had many excuses; their own possessions and lives were more important to them than what the host was offering them.

What might be some things in your own life that keep you or distract you from saying yes to God's invitation?

Pass out newspapers or magazines and kid-friendly scissors and ask students to cut out pictures that represent things that personally keep them from saying yes to God's invitation. Then, if students are willing, ask them to share what pictures they chose and why.

When distractions and other things keep us from accepting God's invitation, it helps to see how important God's invitation really is! Those who said yes to the invitation in today's story saw that the invitation was one they couldn't refuse. Do you remember how excited they were to be

invited? God's invitation to us is also too good to refuse! God offers us life forever with him in his presence and in his kingdom! In the next few weeks together, we'll be exploring together how wonderful God's invitation really is!

Sing and worship together.

Pick a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#), or choose one of your own. Incorporate movement into the songs whenever possible.

Pray together.

Dear God,

Thank you for sending your Son to invite us into your kingdom and into your family. Show us how valuable this invitation is and encourage us to say yes with your great love! If there are any distractions that keep us from seeing how great this invitation is, help us to see that this invitation is unlike any other we will ever receive!

Amen.

Take prayer requests and close in prayer together.

Handout 1: Declined Invitations

<p>RSVP:</p> <p>I bought a new gaming system, I need to try it out to see if it works. I'm sorry, I can't come!</p> <p>Will you come?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><i>You're Invited!</i></p>
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<p>RSVP:</p> <p>I just made some new friends, I'm going to spend some time with them, please excuse me.</p> <p>Will you come?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><i>You're Invited!</i></p>
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<p>RSVP:</p> <p>I won't be able to attend. I've just got too much to do right now!</p> <p>Will you come?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><i>You're Invited!</i></p>
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Handout 2: Accepted Invitations

RSVP:
I've been invited?! I can't believe this! I can't even pay this man back! I will definitely come to the party!

Will you come?
 Yes
 No

You're Invited!

RSVP:
I've never been invited to a dinner party like this before, I've never felt so honored. Count me in!

Will you come?
 Yes
 No

You're Invited!

RSVP:
A party with the best food and drink...that sounds so wonderful. I can't tell you the last time I've had a nice warm meal. I'll be there!

Will you come?
 Yes
 No

You're Invited!