



Lesson 1: “I’m Invited”

6-8 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 that plays music ● A sheet of 8 1/2-11 inch copy paper, one for every pair of students ● Pens or pencils* ● Handout 1, one copy ● Handout 2, one copy ● Props for the skit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A table ○ Party decorations (optional) ○ Party snacks

*Materials marked with an asterisk are in the CKC Games Bag.

Relate (20 minutes)

Welcome students with a snack.

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

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- Ask students to share a highlight or success from the week (a rose), a challenge or disappointment from the week (a thorn) and something they are looking forward to doing or experiencing (a bud).
- Let students take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the Feelings

Wheel (from the CKC Games Bag).

- Open a discussion with the question: “How does it feel to be invited to an event or a party? What would make you feel inclined to say yes or no to a particular 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 his 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 host's 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 those I love!**

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!

(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

As the story today illustrated, when we are given an invitation, we have a choice to make: we either have to accept or decline the invitation.

Divide students into pairs and give each pair a sheet of paper and a pencil.

On this sheet of paper, I want you and your partner to come up with reasons that would compel you to accept an invitation and reasons why you would decline an invitation in two separate columns. You may want to think about your own experiences, or maybe the story today sparks some other ideas.

Give students several minutes to complete the task. Then, come together and record everyone's responses on a sheet of chart paper, dividing the page into two separate columns to differentiate between the reasons for accepting and the reasons for declining an invitation.

Discussion questions:

- **As you did this activity, what did you notice?**
- **Did any of these reasons for accepting or declining an invitation show up in the story today? Which ones?**
- **What is compelling about the host's invitation in the story? How might this relate to the invitation God extends to us through his Son?**
- **What might be keeping you from accepting God's invitation?**

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 compel 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

RSVP:

I bought a new gaming system,
I need to try it out to see if it
works. I'm sorry, I can't come!

Will you come?

Yes

No

You're Invited!

RSVP:

I just made some new friends,
I'm going to spend some time
with them, please excuse me.

Will you come?

Yes

No

You're Invited!

RSVP:

I won't be able to attend. I've
just got too much to do right
now!

Will you come?

Yes

No

You're Invited!

Handout 2: Accepted Invitations

<p>RSVP:</p> <p>I've been invited?! I can't believe this! I can't even pay this man back! I will definitely come to the party!</p> <p>Will you come?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><i>You're Invited!</i></p>
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<p>RSVP:</p> <p>I've never been invited to a dinner party like this before, I've never felt so honored. Count me in!</p> <p>Will you come?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><i>You're Invited!</i></p>
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<p>RSVP:</p> <p>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!</p> <p>Will you come?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><i>You're Invited!</i></p>
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