



# Lesson 1: “I’m Invited”

## K-2 In-Person Crew Club Plan

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

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

### **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

### Find the Invitation

Instruct your students to stand and form a circle. Select one student to be tasked with the role of finding the invitation and instruct them to stand in the center of the circle. Create an “invitation” by folding a piece of scrap paper or an index card and give the invitation to a student that is forming the circle. Instruct the student in the center of the circle to close their eyes and begin playing music to indicate to the students that they are to pass the invitation around the circle. When the music stops, they will need to put their hands behind their backs and those who have the invitations will try to hide the invitations. The student has three guesses to try to identify the student who is holding the invitation.



## **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 and your co-captain will need to take the roles of the host and

the servant. Divide the students into two groups. GROUP 1 will be those who first receive the invitation but decline the invitation, and GROUP 2 will be those who receive the invitation, accept it and go to the party.

Preparation: 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!**

The servant (to group 1): **Come, the dinner is ready!**

(Addressing group 1) **Why can't you attend the party?**

Take student responses from group 1.

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 that are more important to them. The dinner is already prepared. 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.**

The servant (to group 2): **A wonderful feast is ready, the host requests your presence. Come to the dinner party!**

**Group 2, how would you like to respond to this invitation?**

Encourage the students in group 2 to show faces of excitement and enthusiasm. Then, the servant should lead the students in group 2 to the table and pass out the party snacks.

**So those who said yes to the invitation came to the dinner party, ate and were satisfied! Those who rejected the invitation didn't get to enjoy the party.**

**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 say yes to the invitation will get to experience life with God in his kingdom now and forever!**

(At this time, you may want to pass out party snacks 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 great 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.