



Lesson 1: “I’m Invited”

Online 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, NLT).
<u>Mystery Bag</u> (Optional)	Create an invitation for each of your students. You may want to design the invitation as if it was an invite to the club session each week. Put an invitation in each mystery bag.

Relate (10 minutes)

Welcome crew members.

Greet crew members. Introduce any new crew members to the rest of the group.

Choose one of the following icebreaker activities:

- Ask each crew member to make a face that would describe how they are feeling at that very moment. If students are willing, ask them to share why they made the face that they did.
- Grab and Share/Show and Tell: Ask students to grab something within arms length of them and share where and when they got it and why it is meaningful to them. If they have a hard time coming up with an answer, you could encourage them to tell a creative story about that item.
- Ask students to share the strangest or coolest thing that happened to them in the past week.

Play a game.

Secret Dancer

Choose one student to move out of sight of their Zoom camera so that you can pick a secret dancer without it being revealed to that student. The secret dancer is in charge of leading the dance moves that everyone else must follow while trying to keep their identity a secret from the student who will be trying to guess who they are. Before inviting the student to return to their Zoom camera, start to play a kid-friendly song on your computer (for song ideas, check out the Praise and Worship Guide) with your sound on so that the secret dancer can start leading the group with their own dance moves. Then, instruct the guesser to return to their camera and try to identify who the secret dancer is as the music continues to play. Play several times by selecting new students to play the role of guesser and secret dancer.



Receive (10 minutes)

Hear 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?¹

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 hear the story and see if we don't find an answer to this.

¹ Optional Mystery Bag: After students answer the question, ask them to open up their mystery bag and pull out the invitation inside.

A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. After weeks of preparation, the feast was ready to go, so the man sent out his servant to go tell the guests: “Come, the banquet is ready!” However, all the invited guests began making excuses!

Ask three students to read the excuses of the dinner guests. Send each student their line by sending each student a private chat with one of the lines below:

- **“I bought a new gaming system, I need to try it out to see if it works. I’m sorry, I can’t come!”**
- **“I just made some new friends, I’m going to spend some time with them. Please excuse me.”**
- **“I won’t be able to attend. I’ve just got too much to do right now!”**

So the servant returned to the host and told him about all the excuses the people were making. The host was furious and said, “Go into the streets and invite the poor, the blind and the sick and invite them. They’ll come to my feast.” So the servant went out and invited as many people as he could find. Here’s how they responded:

Ask three more students to read the responses of the poor, the blind and the sick. Send each of them one of the lines below:

- **“I’ve been invited?! I can’t believe this! I can’t even pay this man back! I will definitely come to the party!”**
- **“I’ve never been invited to a dinner party like this before, I’ve never felt so honored. Count me in!”**
- **“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!”**

Then, the servant returned to the host and reported: “There is still room for more.” So his master said, “Go outside of the city and urge anyone you find to come, I want my house to be full!” So the servant went out and brought in anyone who was willing to say yes to the invitation. So all those that said yes and came to the party ate and were satisfied!

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!



Respond (10 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 relationships 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? What might be more important to you than God?

Take student responses.

When distractions and other things in our lives 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!

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.