

Rhythms of Grace Worship • February • Yr. 2

Theme: The Great Banquet

Scripture: Luke 14:16-24

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items Needed for this Session

Gathering: long table, plates, glasses, utensils, table cloth, etc.

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus Doll, Storytelling, set table above

Response Activities:

Getting Ready- Clothing: light cloth material like muslin made into tunics (see resources for directions), fabric pens

Cups and Plates- modeling clay or Playdough, pictures of cups and plates

Bean or Rice Search- small family figures, long wooden table, sand box

Balancing Act- paper cups and plates

Invitations- paper, pencil, dowel stick for scroll ends, masking tape to assemble

Regathering: Red Rover Game, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: Eucharist prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), Bible, Jesus doll, altar table, and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99),

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

Session Plan • The Great Banquet • Feb. Yr. 2

Gathering: Preparing the Banquet- Place a long table in middle of room. Scatter plates, glasses etc. around the room. Participants will gather the items and set the table.

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, the above Gathering scene; see the story

Response Activities:

Getting Ready-Clothing: Using fabric markers participants will design tunics to wear.

Getting Ready-Plates and Cups: using modeling clay have participants make cup and plate to take home.

Bean or Rice Search: Find the people in the beans or rice and place around the table. Match families, etc.

Balancing Act: Free play with paper cups and plates. Build the tallest tower possible or create a pattern of cups and plates

Invitation: Create an invitation to join us at the banquet. Once finished, using the tape and dowels design the invitation to look like a scroll.

Regathering: Play “Welcome Game”, (like Red Rover) as called over take element to set table

Eucharist: Sing: Gather our Hearts

Gather our hearts, oh God.
Gather our thoughts, oh God.
Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*,
Celebrant provides a blessing:
Celebrant: “Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.”
Participant: “Thanks be to God!”

Story Telling • The Great Banquet • Feb. Yr. 2

Gather participants around the table they have just set for a banquet to tell the story.

Our story today is from our Bible, (*show the Bible*), our book that tells the stories of God and God's people...of Jesus, (*show Jesus doll*), God's son... and of how much God loves us. (*place hands over heart*).

Today's story is from the second part of our Bible, (*show Bible and divide in half*). The second part of our Bible is called the New Testament. It has the stories of Jesus and the early church. (*show the Jesus doll again*)

Jesus taught his followers about God and how much God loved them and wanted to be part of their lives. Jesus sometimes taught by telling stories to explain what he wanted his friends to understand. Today's story is one of those stories.

Jesus told the story....

Once there was a man who was preparing a great banquet or party. He invited many guests. When he was ready (like we are now) he sent his servant to tell those guests that he and the banquet were ready and to come. But the guests all had excuses why they couldn't come. They all said they had things they had to do...one had just bought a field and needed to go and see it...another had just bought 5 oxen and wanted to work with them...still another said they had just gotten married and couldn't come. The servant told the master that no one was coming to the party. The master became very angry and ordered his servant to go out into the streets and bring in the poor, those who could not walk, the blind and the lame. The servant did as the master asked but there was still room so the master told his servant to go back out to the helpless and invite all to come so his house would be full.

Jesus told this story to let us all know that God loves everyone and invites everyone to join God in friendship and love. Jesus wanted everyone to know that they are always welcome in God's house and at God's table. And, that invitation is for you, (n.) (*point to each participant*) and you, (n.) and you, (n.) (*continue naming all*) and me. God welcomes us all.

Amen.

(After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes on to explain the activities of the day).