



SMALL GROUP: TUESDAY

BIBLE STORY: Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-14)

BOTTOM LINE: Everyone is invited to the party.

MEMORY VERSE

You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you. Acts: 2:28

STARTER QUESTIONS

- What's your favorite way to celebrate?
- If you could pick one dessert to eat every day, what would you choose?

PLAY TODAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

- Divide kids into two teams and give each team a Bible.
- Lead teams to look up Acts 2:28. Help them find the Table of Contents in the front of the Bible. From there, find the page number of Acts. Then look to find the big number for chapter 2, and small number for verse 28. (For K/1 groups, help them with each step and read the verse aloud to them).
- Give each team 10 ping-pong balls and a permanent marker.
- Lead kids to copy two or three words from the Bible onto each ball until the entire memory verse has been written on the 10 balls, including the reference. (Help K/1 groups write the words on the ping-pong balls).
- Guide teams to place all their balls (with words) into a bucket.
- Use the painter's tape to create a finish line on one side of your small group area.
- When finished, tell each team to line up on the opposite side of your small group area, facing the finish line.
- Place each team's bucket of balls in front of their line.
- Give the first kid in each line a spoon.
- On the count of three, instruct the first kid to scoop one ball from the bucket, carefully walk it to the finish line, drop the ball into the other container, return to their team to hand off the spoon to the next kid in line, and go to the end of their team's line.
 - Kids cannot use two hands while walking with the ping-pong ball (i.e. cupping hand over spoon to keep the ball in place).
 - If they drop the ball while walking, they can scoop it back up (using one hand), then must continue walking without using their other hand. The



next kid in line cannot start until the previous kid hands them the spoon.

- Once a team has gotten all their balls to the finish line, the team whole must go to the finish line and begin assembling the verse in order. (For K/1 groups, help read the words to them and place them in order).
- The first team to have the memory verse in order is the winner!
- Play again if time allows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the best thing you've ever been invited to?
- What makes you want to be part of something else?
- How does it feel to be invited?
- Why is it important for us to feel like we belong?
- If following Jesus gives us joy, how can we invite others to experience that joy?

WHAT YOU SAY

We may not always have an extravagant party to invite people to, but we can live in a way that makes people feel included in whatever we're doing. If you see someone sitting by themselves, you can invite them to join in what you're doing. If you see someone new moving in across the street, you can make them a card or cookies welcoming them to the neighborhood. There may be people around you who don't know about Jesus yet. You can invite them to experience the joy you've found in following Jesus. It could even be as simple as inviting them to church! Let's make sure we use our words and actions to show that Everyone is invited to the party.

PRAYER

"Dear God, we thank You for the joy You've given us deep down in our hearts that we can overflow to others. We thank You for the great responsibility You've given us to help the world around us feel invited and included. Help us be excited with smiles on our faces as we look for people around us we can invite and make smile because of the joy You bring to our lives. Remind us that everyone is invited to the party."