



# SMALL GROUP: TUESDAY

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

**MEMORY VERSE:** You will fill me with joy when I am with you. Acts: 2:28

**KEY QUESTION:** Who can celebrate Jesus?

**BOTTOM LINE:** I can celebrate Jesus!

## PLAY TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### PARTY JOY

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

Spring-loaded clothes pins, smiley face stickers, and party-themed paper plate

#### WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Add one smiley face sticker to the top end of each clothes pin, one per child.

During the Activity: Encourage children to name someone they would invite to a party. Then ask them to pinch open the clothespin and clip it to the party plate. Continue with each child. Remove and repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends, come sit with me at the table. Look at this plate. It's a party plate! Look at the clothespins. They have smiley faces on them, so they can be people. The people are going to the party (clip one pin on the plate), but they need to be invited before they can come."

During the Activity: "Before you clip the person at the party, you can say someone's name and invite them. It can be a friend at the table or a family member or a friend from the neighborhood. Watch me. (To clothespin) Hey, [friend's name], do you want to come to my party? (Pause and pretend.) [Friend's name] said yes! She/He is coming to the party! (Clip the pin onto the plate and pass it to the child next to you.) Who will you invite? (Continue with each child.) Look at all the people who were invited to the party! Our party plate is full. Great job!"

After the Activity: "In our Bible story, Jesus told a story about a king who invited



everyone to his party. This story is important because everyone is invited to be friends with Jesus. Yes, everyone, and that makes me want to celebrate! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

## **JOURNAL AND PRAYER**

### **WHAT YOU NEED:**

Memory Verse Card from Day One in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

### **WHAT YOU DO:**

**During the Activity:** Lead the children to play pretend party horns as they walk to Small Group spot. Talk about today's Bible story, say the memory verse, and write in the journal.

**After the Activity:** Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### **WHAT YOU SAY:**

**Before the Activity:** "It's Small Group time! Stand up and make a party horn with your hand, like this. (Make a horn with your hand.) Now follow me and play your pretend party horns! (Make trumpet noises with your hand horn as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) That was fun! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

**During the Activity:** (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible story today, Jesus told a story about a king who had a HUGE party to celebrate his son. The first people he invited wouldn't come to the party. So what did the king do? (Pause.) The king invited EVERYONE to his party! All of the people who went to the king's party got to celebrate his son!"

"Jesus told this story to teach us that EVERYONE is invited to be His friend forever! Wow! That is such good news! That means everyone can celebrate Jesus! That's why when I ask you, 'Who can celebrate Jesus?' I want you to say, 'I can celebrate Jesus!' Ready? Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!"

"You sure can! And the Bible verse we are learning will help us remember one of the reasons we celebrate Jesus. It says (turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card), 'You (point up) will fill me with joy (brush flat hands upward twice) when I am with you (fists together with thumbs on top); Acts 2:28. (Open hands like a book.)

(Close Bible and lay it down.) "Let's stand up and say those words together with



the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'You (point up) will fill me with joy (brush flat hands upward twice) when I am with you (fists together with thumbs on top)' Acts 2:28. (Open hands like a book.)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

"Yay, Jesus! (Clap and cheer.) Jesus fills us with joy! Yay, Jesus! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.) Today we are going to make a list of people that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. It can be ANYONE, because Jesus wants to be friends forever with EVERYONE! Listen for when it's your turn and tell me one person's name. (Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.) Wow! Look at all these people! We can use this list when we pray."

After the Activity: "Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.) Dear God, thank You that EVERYONE is invited to be Jesus' friend forever. Jesus wants to be (read the list the children made) friend forever. And Jesus wants to be (say each child's name) friend forever. And Jesus wants to be my friend forever, too! That is good news worth celebrating! We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."