

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 11**Focus:**

God invites all kinds of people to His party.

Lesson 11**Bible Basis:**

Luke 14:15-24

Lesson 11**Memory Verse:**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

—Matthew 11:28

Your students will discuss a video about a girl’s birthday party as an introduction to learning about God’s invitation to all kinds of people.

Materials:

- Internet access

Watch this video with your class and then discuss the questions that follow [2:12]:
Thousands attend quinceañera in Mexico after a dad's viral post

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QVws6SIjHU>

This news story explained how almost no one showed up for Estela’s quinceañera, a coming-of-age birthday party to celebrate her turning fifteen. On a day when she should have felt loved and celebrated by her friends, she ended up feeling pretty lonely.

- **Sometimes we all feel lonely or isolated. This can happen for many reasons. Maybe we’re left out of an activity, our friends don’t show up to an event, or best friends move away. What is the hardest thing about feeling left out?** (Students might reveal honest reactions to social rejection.)
- **What did you admire about the people who showed up for Estela, including the event planner and crowds of people from her community?** (They took the opportunity to celebrate and bless someone else. They probably remember what it felt like to be younger and emotionally vulnerable.)
- **Does God play favorites when He makes a guest list?** (Allow students to share their thoughts before reminding them that God loves and values each person equally. We were each made special for a unique purpose!)

It is natural for humans to crave belonging and acceptance. Let’s learn a little bit more about God’s plan to include everyone.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher’s guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

You're Invited!

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 11**Focus:**

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Lesson 11**Bible Basis:**

Luke 14:15–24

Lesson 11**Memory Verse:**

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—Matthew 11:28

Materials:

- Cardstock (1 or more 5 ½ by 8 ½ inch sheet[s] per student)
- Pens/pencils
- Optional: Envelopes, markers, stickers, art supplies

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

This lesson not only comforts students about their own inclusion in God’s family, but it can encourage them to invite others into God’s kingdom. The passage from Luke can prompt discussions of evangelism and outreach.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home.) Show your students how to fold it in half to create a folded card. Instruct them to design a party invitation which shares God’s love with others. It can include the following items, but feel free to adjust the content—or even encourage your students to design their own ideas:

- You’re Invited!
- Where? God’s Kingdom is waiting for you.
- Who? Everybody is welcome!
- When? The best time is right now. You can come to the party any time.
- Come as you are: Jesus Christ has already provided everything.

Your students may design more than one invitation if time permits. When your students are done designing their cards, discuss the following questions together:

- **Why do you think some people reject God’s offer of salvation?** (There can be all kinds of barriers to accepting the gospel of Jesus Christ. Family background, intellectual questions, fear, sin, and other factors can keep people from accepting God’s free gift.)
- **Are some people just too bad, too weird, or too far gone to be included in God’s kingdom?** (Absolutely not! God does not play favorites, and His salvation and promise of Heaven is for everybody.)

It can be hard for middle schoolers to openly evangelize or share Jesus with friends, especially those who come from different backgrounds. Perhaps an adult leader or two can talk about a time when they were able to share Jesus. Encourage students to ask God who they should give an invitation. They can use them as a starting point to share the gospel by writing the name of the person He brings to mind on one of the envelopes.

Close in prayer asking God to use their invitations to share His love to many.

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