

# The Gospel According to St. Luke





## Middle school Ministry



# Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison				
	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle

Symbols of the Four Gospels			
			
Matthew Winged Man	Mark Winged Lion	Luke Winged Ox	John Eagle

## 1- Servant's preparation:

- 1) Explanation of the gospel of St Luke chapters 1-12 and an introduction for Bishop Yousef  
<https://www.suscopts.org/diocese/bishop/bible-study/holy-gospel-according-to-st-luke/>
- 2) A link for Fr. Doud Lamei 's bible study in Arabic  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHedjI0\\_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHedjI0_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK)
- 3) The reference book for Fr. Tadros Malaty → see separate attachment
- 4) Upper room app → Sermons → Bible study → Luke , you will find sermons for each chapter, links provided at the beginning of each lesson below.
- 4) Two illustrative videos that could be used by servants to prepare or to show at the beginning of each unit.
  - Part 1 [chapter 1-9]  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb\\_dClxzo0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxzo0)
  - Part 2 [10-24]  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z\\_KhwNdd8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdd8)

## 2- Book introduction:



### A- Who is St. Luke?

- ❖ The word “Luke” is probably an abbreviation of the Latin word “Lucanus” or “Lucuis”, which means ‘the carrier of the light’ or ‘the enlightened’.
- ❖ He is the only one among the writers for the Testament who was not a Jew, but a Gentile
- ❖ St. Luke was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle and became his companion on his numerous journeys.
- ❖ He met St. Paul on his second missionary journey in Troas and accompanied him to Philippi. Then, he joined him again on his third journey heading to Jerusalem. It appears that he may have stayed in Palestine during the two years’ imprisonment of St. Paul in Caesarea. They also travelled to preach in Rome together (Acts 28:30).
- ❖ He was not one of the disciples, nor one of the apostles.
- ❖ It came by oral tradition that he had painted the first picture of the Virgin Mary.
- ❖ He departed in Bithynia at an old age. Some say that he was martyred during the reign of Nero at age 84.

### B- Characteristics:

- ❖ He wrote this Gospel and the Book of Acts to an Alexandrian nobleman named **Theophilus** (Luke 1:3), calling him “most excellent”, which is a special title for one who holds an important position within the Roman Empire. Some say that Theophilus is one of these three:
  1. He might be someone whose name the apostles did not want to mention, instead, calling him Theophilus which means ‘he who loves God’ in order not to reveal his identity and cause him harm.
  2. Or someone who truly bore this name. The apostle wrote him the Gospel of truth (the Gospel of St. Luke) to understand the Church and its mission (the Acts), in order to attract him to the faith rather than resist the Church.
  3. Luke was a doctor and a servant; he may have treated his own master before setting him free. In order to show his gratitude and give the most precious thing he could offer; he wrote him the gospel of our Lord Jesus and the history of the first Church
- ❖ St Luke did not meet Jesus in person but believed later when he met St Paul. In order to record accurate details about the whole story of Jesus, he interviewed eyewitnesses like St Mary and the disciples and may be main characters he wrote about like the Samaritan and Zacchaeus to be able to collect accurate and reliable understanding of all things and document them for all generations in a perfectly historical way.
- ❖ Picture a scientist going about some great work. He or she is searching for the cure for some horrible disease or making some marvelous new discovery. First the scientist digs for facts, looking deeply, studying carefully, investigating every clue, relentlessly hunting for any and every fact that will make the discovery deeper, richer, and more accurate.

- ❖ Similarly, in this study, we are going to look at Jesus through the eyes of those who actually witnessed Him, and then told their story. That is what a witness is: a person who sees or experiences something, then tells others what he or she has seen.

### C- The Time for his writing

- There is no sure tradition regarding the time of this writing or its site. St. Irianus thinks it was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul.
- Since the gospel was written before the book of Acts, and the book of Acts was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul the apostle, therefore many believe that it was written between the **year 63 and 67 AD.**

### D- Its Aim:

- ❖ ***This Gospel was recorded for the Greeks***, who are known for their own philosophy and literature, which is why it was written in a refined and poetic style.
- ❖ ***He offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child. St. Luke presented Christ to the Gentile world as a Mean to find their inner happiness and joy. He began the Gospel with joy with announcing [the birth of Jesus] and concluded it with joy [Jesus rose from the dead]; something the Greek legends and philosophies lacked.
- ❖ Jesus Christ came as a Friend to support us; praying in many places: (3:21; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:39-46), and teaching about praying (Our salvation is not philosophy).



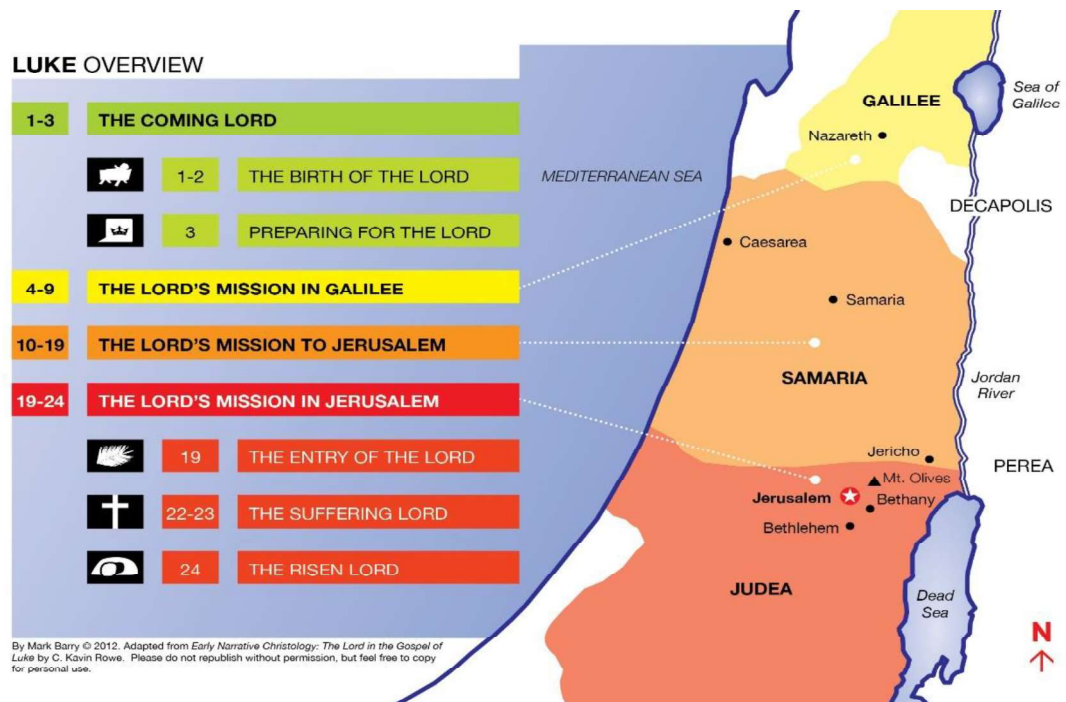
### E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

The ox associated with the Gospel of Luke fits well since it speaks to the great sacrifice of Jesus, and the ox was an important animal for sacrifice as required in the Torah.

### 3- Book outline

Its sections:

1. Unit 1: Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us, **chapters 1-4**
2. Unit 2: Our Friend feels our suffering, **chapters 5-18**
3. Unit 3: Our faithful Friend, **chapters 19-23**
4. Unit 4: Our Friend, the Risen from the dead, **chapter 24**



## Unit 1: [3 lessons]

### Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us chapters 1-4

St Luke presents the Son of God as a Friend, One that we can befriend not fear.

1. Introduction (**Chapter 1** v 1-4).
2. The promise of the Baptist to Zachariah and Elizabeth (v.5-25).
3. Meeting Elizabeth (v.26-38).
4. The birth of John (v.57-80).
5. The birth of Christ (**Chapter 2**)
6. The shepherds meet Him (v.8-20).
7. The circumcision of Jesus (v.21).
8. His entrance to the temple (v.22-40).
9. Jesus challenging the Jewish elders (v.41-52).
10. His baptism (**Chapter 3**) and the genealogy of Christ (v.23-37).
11. Jesus was tempted before beginning His ministry at Galilee (**Chapter 4**)

# Chapter 1

## Servant's preparation:

A sermon from Upper room app bible study about chapter 1

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+nkahjqy>

## Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

## Main points in the Chapter:

1. An introduction to the book 1-4
2. The good news to Zacharias of John's birth 5-17
3. Zacharias' dumbness 18-25
4. The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38
5. Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45
6. The Virgin's hymn of Praise 46-56
7. John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66
8. Zacharias the priest's Prophecy 67-80

## Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows

The gospel of St. Luke started with a short introduction that mentioned how, why and to whom was the book written. We explained that in the previous introduction.

### **John the Baptist's birth: 1-25**

- Because St. Luke was a man of science, being a physician, he clearly defined the date of the event of John's birth
- Even though that time, there was corruption and there were no prophecies for 3 centuries, God saw Zacharias and Elizabeth, noticed their righteousness, and honored them to get John the forerunner before the Christ.

- In this conversation that occurred between the archangel Gabriel and Zacharias the priest inside the Altar, we notice that Zacharias did not believe the angel's words, in spite of seeing the angel and listening to the angelic voice in a tangible way which made him blameworthy of it, particularly because the holy history mentions living examples of elderly people who begot children whereas their wives was barren, such as Sarah, Abraham's wife for not having children.
- In (Luke 1: 17) "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah". The Scholar Oreganus comments on this statement saying, "He did not say in the soul of Elijah, but rather 'in the spirit of Elijah and his power'. The spirit that dwelt in Elijah also dwelt in John, and the power in Elijah was also in John.
- The archangel declared himself that he is Gabriel, he came carrying the divine promise and the good news, but he also had to discipline Zacchaeus with dumbness as God commanded.

### **The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38**

- God chose a virgin who is betrothed to a man [engaged but for the Jews, it is like married without physical union]. God's choice was perfect because Jesus had to come from a virgin but if she were seen pregnant without being married, people would stone her thinking she was a sinner.
- The Holy Spirit came on her to sanctify her womb and start her conception, this happened the minute she agreed to accepting the assignment of being the mother of God. Her obedience opposes Eve's disobedience. She was more obedient than Zacchaeus who questioned the angel.

### **Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45.**

- The virgin St. Mary has now carried in herself He who carries the burdens of the world, and He who provides for everything, she did not worry about what is hers, but rather in the receiving spirit, she hastened to the hills to the city of Judah, so as to serve Elizabeth.

### **The Virgin's Hymn of Praise 46-56**

- When Elizabeth's tongue was released in blessings to the Virgin because she has believed the promises and has carried the Word of God in her womb; likewise did the Virgin's tongue began do praise God.

### **John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66**

- John's birth became a preaching sermon, though it had begun mysteriously, but the Lord has become a companion to him so as to support him; for God took John to the wilderness while young, and there He took care of him and raised him, so that he appears to Israel at the appropriate due time.

### **Goal we learn: [Submit to God's will]**

In this chapter, we have many points to learn from, but we will focus on St Mary and her submissive response to the angel. **"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** Luke 1:38

# Chapter 13 & 14

## Servant's preparation:

A sermon from upper room app about Luke 13

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+sroojhd>

Luke 14:

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+vavepcm>

## Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

## Remember:

Last lesson we focused on how to get ready before the end of our lives. Jesus illustrated reasons why we should be ready since we don't know the time and we should be like the faithful servant doing what he was asked to do all the time, so he is ready when his master checks on him. Jesus also showed how to be ready by avoiding hypocrisy, not caring much about earthly needs because God provides for us and by confessing His name in our lives.

## Main points in the Chapter 13:

- 1- A call for repentance 1- 5
- 2- God asks for fruits 6- 9
- 3- A Spirit of Infirmity 10-17
- 4- The Parable of the mustard seed 18- 19
- 5- The Parable of the yeast and the dough 20- 21
- 6- Repentance and the narrow gate 22- 30
- 7- Declaring His death 31- 35

## Main points in the Chapter 14:

1. A Man with Dropsy Healed on the Sabbath 1- 6
2. Take the Lowly Place 7- 11



3. Opening your heart to the needy 12- 14
4. Being concerned about the banquet invitation 15- 24
5. Leaving All to Follow Christ 25- 35.

### **Lesson overview:**

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows:

#### **A call for repentance chapter 13:1- 5**

The killing of those people does not necessarily mean they were more evil than other Galileans. This is because the Jews thought every tribulation man was exposed to, was a sign of God's wrath to them. Their killing is an opportunity for every person to reconsider himself in repentance so he would not perish forever. At the same time, when those living in sin see these things, they would learn how to correct themselves.

#### **God asks for fruits chapter 13: 6- 9**

When the evangelist St. Luke presented us with 'repentance' as the way to be blessed with salvation from sin (Luke13: 1-5), he then revealed God's long forbearance to us, for He stands as if to intercede for us. He gives us new opportunities, for repentance, just like a good gardener who is patient with the unfruitful fig tree (Luke13: 6-9). He takes care of it Himself by digging round it and adding fertilizer to it, so it blossoms. The gardener reminds us of the saints who intercede in our behalf for God to give us more chances to repent.

#### **The Parable of the mustard seed Chapter 13:18- 19**

Anyone who accepts the mustard seed, that is, the gospel word, that is sowed in his heart's garden, becomes a great tree bearing branches for birds to benefit from. St. Paul accepted the teaching of Hananiah (Acts9: 17) as a little seed sowed in his heart; thus, it produced many useful teachings to many generations after.

He offers His gospel to our hearts, just as it were a small mustard seed that becomes a huge tree where the birds of the sky take shelter in its branches. Also, as a yeast in our minds that sanctifies the body together with the soul and the spirit.

#### **Repentance and the narrow gate chapter 13:22- 30**

He uses the analogy of a narrow door (13:24). In doing this, Jesus acknowledges the difficulty of discipleship. Many will not make the sacrifice to enter that door. We do our youths no favor if we pretend that following Jesus is easy. But those who fail to enter the narrow door during this life because of its difficulty will desperately want to go through that door after it has been closed. All of their pleas and promises at that point, however, will be fruitless.

#### **Declaring His death Chapter 13:31- 35**

Chapter 13 concludes with an incident that illustrates how close Jesus was to Jerusalem--close in distance, close in time, and close in concern.

As St. Cyril the great says, "The Pharisees thought Herod's authority would threaten Him, and He would thus fear him to leave. But He is the Lord of hosts who has all the spiritual courage by His words (Matt10: 28) Do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul; rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." He paid no concern to human violence.

### **The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant Chapter 13:35-48**

In verses 35-48 Jesus takes up the theme of watchfulness. He uses several analogies or short parables to illustrate the importance of constant vigilance. In the first parable He stresses the wisdom of the servants who are prepared for their master's arrival, regardless of the hour. In the second, He uses a bit of humor to point out that if a homeowner knew what time a thief was going to arrive, he would be prepared. Then Jesus likened the arrival of the Son of Man to that of a thief. The third parable is another one about a master and his servants. The attitude of the servant in verse 45 reminds us of the attitude of many concerning their own death. Instead of doing what they know they should be doing, they put it off as long as possible, believing death is still in the distant future.

### **A Man with Dropsy Healed on the Sabbath Chapter 14:1- 6**

Although the Pharisees comprised Jesus' greatest opposition, He continued to meet with them, even dining in their homes. In Luke 14, Jesus again is in the home of a Pharisee, this time on a Sabbath. Jesus had apparently been invited over for "Sunday dinner."

As Jesus was being entertained, He was also "being carefully watched" (v. 1). He was aware that the primary purpose of the dinner invitation was so that He might be examined at close range. While He was in the Pharisee's home "there in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy" (v. 2).

Jesus did what He had always done when confronted with human suffering: He healed the man. Then He reminded the Pharisees that their own law allowed them to rescue an animal that happened to fall into one of Palestine's many open wells--even on a Sabbath. How could they be so merciful to a farm animal and deny at least that same mercy to a human being? "And they had nothing to say" (v. 6).

### **Take the Lowly Place Chapter 14:7- 11**

Jesus used three illustrations about banquets.

In the first illustration (vv. 7-11) Jesus referred to the custom of seating people at a banquet according to their rank, with the most important person being seated at the head of the table and the least important person being seated at the foot. Jesus urged the Pharisees to exercise humility in that situation. And, of course, the greater teaching concerns humility in all of life. Jesus knew that the Pharisees were proud men. The modest and praiseworthy person, who is not afraid of any blame deserves to sit among the dignitaries, but he does not ask this for himself. He rather leaves to others what he is worthy of; and he is counted most probably worthy of vain glory, and he will receive this honor that befits him, for he hears someone who tells him (Luke14: 10) "Friend, move up higher."

### **Opening your heart to the needy Chapter 14:12- 14**

The second illustration (vv. 12-14) was directed at the host himself. Jesus urged him to do favors for the poor, who had no way to repay their benefactor. That way, the man would be earning eternal, rather than temporal, blessings.

### **Being concerned about the banquet invitation Chapter 14:15- 24**

The third and longest of the illustrations is found in verses 15-24. This one really hit right at the heart of God's mission to Israel. Like the man in the parable, God was extending an invitation to His friends and family--the people of Israel. But, just as the people in the parable stood the man up, so the people of Israel would fail to respond to God's invitation. The man in the parable, having been rebuffed by his friends and family, then extended his invitation to "the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame" (v. 21) and even those out on "the roads and country lanes" (v. 23). Here Jesus is foreshadowing the evangelistic thrust of the Church into the Gentile community, as recorded in the Book of Acts.

### **Leaving All to Follow Christ Chapter 14:25- 35.**

Jesus was aware that His disciples would soon run away from Him at the time of the cross, so He decided to talk in detail about the cost of discipleship in 14:25-33. Jesus wanted His followers to know exactly what would be demanded of them. His language in verse 26 seems particularly harsh to us. The idea of hating our family in order to follow Jesus is not at all attractive. But, just as Jesus spoke in parables, He also used the technique of hyperbole--exaggeration--to make His point. In order to be a disciple, one must love Christ and be devoted to His mission on earth above all else, even love of family.

While Jesus does not expect us to actually "hate" our families, anyone who has had to say goodbye to a loved one who is leaving for assignment on a mission field or for a pastorate in a distant state understands the place of family in a disciple's priorities.

In verses 28-32, Jesus uses two illustrations to demonstrate the need for counting the cost of a project before beginning. How does this apply to spiritual life? Have you ever seen someone become a Christian, full of excitement and promises, only to fail when the difficulties began?

### **Goal we learn: [ Accept God's invitation]**

In this lesson, we will focus on the parable of the banquet and imagine how God must have felt when He invited many people to an amazing party [heaven] but every day He would see people making up excuses not to go. Jesus explained that the gate is narrow, and path is not easy, that is why first would be last and last would go first. Let us think how to make sure we are among those accepting His invitation.



## Lesson delivery idea

### *The Parable of the Banquet:*

We will start the lesson with a party theme because God wants us in heaven with him and thus, He invited us to a party. Items to Pack:

- party decorations such as balloons, streamers, and tablecloths.
- paper plates, napkins

**Summary of Parable:** Review the parable if needed

### **Travel Itinerary**

From an early age, youth discover the fun of being invited...to a party, a sleepover, or just to hang out at a friend's house. They also discover too soon the pain of being left out. What a joy to realize that God invites *all* of us into a relationship with him that will last forever!

Use today's lesson to remind us of God's incredible love for us—a love so great that he's preparing an incredible place in heaven for each and every one.

**Ask: What things do you do when you're getting ready to have a party or celebration at home?**

**Say: The parable we're exploring is about a party called a banquet—a big, fancy feast. Let's decorate our room for a party! [or do that before class]**

Set out the supplies and let kids decorate your room for a party. Kids can inflate balloons and hang them up, twist streamers together and hang them in doorways, and put a tablecloth on the table. When the room is ready, gather kids around the table.

**Say: There's something missing.** Hold up the paper plates. **There's a place and plate for each of you at our table. Today we'll be talking about heaven—an incredible place that God is preparing for us! God wants us in heaven with him. Let's start our time together by thanking God for making a special place for each one of us in heaven.**

Hand each child a plate. As kids take turns setting their plate at the table, have them pray a short prayer of thanks. Close by praying: **God, it's incredible to think that you love us enough to make a place for each and every one of us in heaven with you. Open our eyes so that we can better understand your loving plans. In Jesus' name, amen.**

### **1st Stop Discovery** (10 minutes)

You're Invited... Items to Pack: an invitation for each child, pens or pencils, markers.

Ask:

- **What are some occasions for having a party?**

- **Who do you usually invite to a party?**

Let Kids make invitations to a “dream” party using pens and markers, and then explore what it feels like when people can’t come. Gather kids away from the party table.

**After preparing cards, you have 2 options to illustrate:**

**Option 1:**

Say: **It’s really fun to plan a party—and to get a party invitation. As you plan, think about how much fun you and your friends and family will have at your party.**

Turn a nice song on for about five minutes while kids create their invitations. Then form a circle and say: **Pass your invitation to the left while the music plays. When I stop the music, look over the invitation you have and then find the person who invited you to his or her party. Then I want you to make up a weird or ridiculous reason for *not* coming to the party. Ready?**

After the kids have exchanged excuses, gather kids together again and ask for a few of the strange excuses they heard.

Ask: **How would you feel if *no one* came to your party?**

Say: **In today’s parable, Jesus used the example of someone who planned a party that no one came to. We’ll discover that God wants us in heaven with him.**

**Option 2:**

Hold the invitations and have kids scatter around the room. Stand near the party table kids prepared earlier.

Say: **A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations.** Walk around the room and hand a few kids’ invitations. Then walk back to the table. **When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’** Walk to one child and tear up his or her invitation. **That person didn’t want to come.** Walk to another child. **Another said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’** Tear up that person’s invitation. **Guess he didn’t want to come, either.** Walk to another child. **Another said, ‘I now have a wife, so I can’t come.’** Tear up that person’s invitation.

Continue to move to everyone you gave an invitation to, taking their invitations and tearing them. **Everyone that the man had invited to the feast had some excuse for not coming.** Take all the torn invitations and put them in a pile.

**The Master’s Response**

Continue: **The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, (hand a child an**

invitation) **the crippled** (hand a few more children invitations), **the blind** (continue handing out invitations), and **the lame.**' After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So, this master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come so that the house will be full. Hand out all of the invitations, then direct kids who have invitations to come and gather around the table. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'

Ask:

- **Why did the man in the story invite the poor, crippled, and lame to his feast?**
- **If the man in the story represents God, and the banquet is heaven, why do you think Jesus told this story?**

Say: **God wants us in heaven with him. Like the man in the story, God has planned and created something *incredible* for those who follow and love him! Heaven is so amazing that God wants everyone to be there. The doors are wide open! Let's bring our friends who said "no" so they can join our celebration.**

Have a few kids gathered near the table go and bring back the kids whose invitations you tore up.

Open your Bible to [Luke 14:12](#), and show kids the passage.

Say: **One Sabbath day, Jesus went to have dinner at an important Pharisee's house. While he was there, Jesus noticed how everyone wanted the best place at the table. So, Jesus told the host that it's better to invite people who can't pay you back—people who aren't worried about impressing you. Jesus said that in heaven, "God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you." So that got everyone thinking about heaven. In fact, one guy called out, "It's going to be great to feast with God in heaven!" And that was when Jesus told this story.**

### Conclusion

In the parable, God prepared a feast inviting many of his friends. But the people made up excuses for not coming. Suddenly, other things were more important than him. Remember, Jesus told this story to remind the Jewish leaders that God wants them in heaven with him. What things can seem more important than spending time with God? How do you think God feels when He sees so many people make excuses not to spend time with him?

Actually, this banquet feast is offered every day on **the altar during liturgy**. Jesus is inviting each of us to join to partake of His body and blood to get closer to Him. Do we feel how precious this invitation is? Do we realize how hard it is for God to prepare this feast as well as heaven for everyone then people start making silly excuses telling Him how busy they are? We do not want to keep ignoring this invitation till the time comes when God tears them off and we see others who were last become first and enter into heaven happily.

Remember verse 13:30 which explained that the first would be last and last would be first. Jesus gave this warning then illustrated that the invitation to heaven is for everyone, but the gate is narrow. People think it is easy but it is not, we need to watch out and respond to this invitation by changing at least one thing that could prevent us from going to heaven like being lazy, procrastinating, lying, saying bad words and so forth.

### Take home Prayer

God, we can only imagine the incredible things you've prepared for us in heaven. Thank you most of all that you love us enough to want each of us there with you. Thank you for preparing heaven for everyone here... Help us accept your invitation and come with full energy to your feast at liturgy, knowing it is a mean to get us closer to you. Let us try to drop anything that could disqualify us to be one of your welcomed guests in heaven.

*Memory Verse: 13:30 And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."*

