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## Everyone Is Invited to Be in God's Kingdom

**Read:** Find today's Bible story in Matthew 2:1-14.

Parties are full of fun and laughter and games and dancing and friends—things that everyone loves to be a part of. You know who would probably throw the best party ever? JESUS! Can you imagine what that party would be like? It would be the biggest, coolest, funnest event ever. In fact, Jesus loved parties when he lived here on earth, and he even told a story about a big party once. He said that God's kingdom is like a party, and everyone's invited—no matter who they are, where they come from, or what they've done. One day Jesus was eating dinner with some special people called Pharisees who knew all about God's laws. A lot of them thought that only certain people should be in God's family. It's like if you were planning a big party, and you only wanted to invite popular and famous people, who everyone admires or likes. But Jesus didn't think that way. He came to earth to invite everyone to be a part of God's kingdom! So he decided to tell the Pharisees a story, or a parable. Let's watch a video and see what he says!

**Watch:** [The Parable of the Great Banquet](#)

God's kingdom isn't just for people who already know him. It's not just for people who have something great to offer him. It's for EVERYONE. And back then, that would have shocked people! That it doesn't matter who you are, and where you come from, or if you've done wrong things. Jesus wants everyone in his family, and that includes YOU. Being a part of God's Kingdom means we're in his family, and we follow him by trying to live like Jesus wants us to live.

**Discuss:** ● In the parable, what people did the man invite to his party first? Who did he invite after they didn't come? ● Do you think that those people were used to getting invitations to parties? Why? ● Who does God invite to be a part of his kingdom? (Hint: Everyone!! People who already believe in him AND those who don't - even people that nobody else likes.)

**Read/Memorize:** John 3:16; God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life.

**Pray:** *God, I love you so much. I am so glad that you want everyone to be in your family, and thank you for sending Jesus to rescue us from all the wrong choices we've made. Amen!*