

The Uninvited Guest



Theme: Showing our love for Jesus. Proper 6(11) Year C

Object: A party invitation

Scripture: Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Luke 7:36-38 (NIV)

If you have ever been invited to a party, raise your hand. That's just what I thought! Every one of you has been invited to a party! Perhaps you got an invitation like this one in the mail — or maybe you received an invitation by telephone. Sometimes a friend may come up to you and say, "I am having a party at my house this Saturday, would you like to come?" It is nice to be invited to a party, isn't it?

Have you ever heard of anyone who heard about a party and went to the party, even though they were not invited? Usually, we don't go to a party unless we are invited, but our Bible lesson today tells about a woman who did exactly that. I think we may be surprised to learn what Jesus said about her.

A man named Simon invited Jesus to have dinner at his house. Simon was a member of a very strict religious group called Pharisees. He invited Jesus into his home because he had heard about all of the miraculous things that he had been doing and that many people thought that he was a prophet. No doubt, he wanted everyone to know that Jesus had visited in his home so it would make him look important in the eyes of his friends.

As they began to eat dinner, a woman with a very bad reputation in the town came into the house. She had heard that Jesus had been invited to eat there and she wanted to see him and be near him. She stood behind Jesus, and because she loved him so much, she began to cry. Her tears fell on the feet of Jesus and, since she had nothing with which to dry his feet, the woman knelt down and began to dry the feet of Jesus with her hair. Then she took some expensive perfume and began to rub it on his feet.

Simon was upset by what he saw and said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him and would have nothing to do with her. She's a sinner!"

Jesus could see that Simon was upset, but his response to Simon was quite surprising. He said to

him, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I came into your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You didn't give me the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

Which person in this story are we most like? Are we like the Pharisee who thought he was too good to associate with sinners, or are we like the uninvited guest who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears of love and anointed him with her best perfume?

Jesus, our Saviour, may the love which we show for you be a reflection of the love which you show for us. Amen.

PARTY TIME (as the children enter):

- 1 — Hand invitations to a SS party, as the children enter.
- 2 — Have the room decorated as if for a party.
- 3 — Have some fun music playing.
- 4 — Explain to the children that our story today will be talking about a party where someone came who was not invited, why, and what happened.
- 5 — During the lesson, have an "uninvited person" knock on the door, dressed up so children may not know who it is - that person could "ad lib" for a couple of minutes and then leave.

PLAY ACTING: "Proud/Humble" walk - The teacher will demonstrate a PROUD WALK and then a HUMBLE WALK, while teaching the story. Then children can play a short little fun game of the Pharisees and the Uninvited Guest WALK. When the teacher shouts out PROUD, the children will strut around in their PROUD WALK; when the teacher shouts out HUMBLE, they will walk in their HUMBLE WALK. Teacher will go back and forth from PROUD to HUMBLE for whatever time is allowed during class. Discussion about what kind of walk God wants us to have and why!

PARTY POSTER for JESUS: BIG letters cut out for J - E - S - U - S P - A - R - T - Y for the children to glue onto a large poster board. Then allow children to write notes or draw pictures around the poster to demonstrate ideas such as humble, loving, happy, invited, forgiven, forgiving, etc.

CARDS CRAFT: Give each child 2 COLORED CARDS from bright construction paper.

1 - First card they will create is an "I'M SORRY" card to JESUS - on this card they may list reasons for being sorry or draw a picture on the inside of the card.

2 - Second card they will create will be a card from JESUS to the child that will say on the outside -- "I FORGIVE YOU" and on the inside of the card children could draw a CROSS and also some happy face stickers or cross stickers.

SHAKER GAME: Fill some small water bottles with a few pennies in one, buttons in another, popcorn kernels in another, etc. The different small items in the bottles will give each child their own UNIQUE SOUND. The teacher will ask questions about today's Bible story or give an illustration of different types of behavior that show pride or humility. If the children think they know the answer, they will shake their bottle and give the answer when called upon. No one will win or lose this game, but will just have fun listening and being able to shake the bottle to make their own special sound.

HAPPY HUGS GAME: When you have forgiven someone, or when someone has forgiven you, a hug may show a sign of your happiness. In this game, we will celebrate our happiness by skipping and dancing around the room while the music plays "Jesus Loves the Little Children." Every time the music stops, the children will find a different friend to hug. If time allows, play the game again and have the children shake hands or give each other a high five as a sign of their happiness.

A Debt We Can Never Repay



Theme: Jesus paid a debt we can never repay. Proper 6 (11) Year C

Object: A nice bicycle, if possible

Scripture: Luke 7:41-47 (NIV)

John was a boy about the age of some of you. One day he was playing with a friend who let him ride his new bicycle. It was a very nice bicycle -- probably a lot like this one that we have here today. After riding the bicycle for a while, John got off and parked it behind a car in the driveway. John and his friend got so busy playing that they forgot all about the bicycle. After a while, the woman who owned the car came out of the house and got into the car. She started the engine and began to back out of the driveway. You can probably guess what happened. "CRUNCH!" The sound was unmistakable. Without looking, both boys knew what had happened. The woman had backed over the bicycle. All that remained was a pile of twisted metal.

The woman jumped out of her car and began to apologize. "I am so sorry. I didn't see the bicycle. I will gladly pay for a new one."

What a relief! John's worries were over—except for having to tell his father. John didn't want to tell his father what had happened, but he knew he would find out anyway. When he told his father what had happened he forgot to mention that he had left the bike in the driveway. He just said that the woman had run over the bicycle and she was going to buy his friend a new one. When his dad asked him where the bicycle was when the lady ran over it, he confessed that he had left it in the driveway. "No way is she going to buy a new bike" John's father said. "She didn't do anything wrong. You are the one who left the bicycle in the driveway, so you are the one who is responsible."

John's heart sank. He didn't have the money to pay for the bicycle. He only had a couple of dollars in his piggy bank.

John's father looked at him and said, "Son, we all make mistakes. I know you are sorry for what you have done and that you don't have the money to buy your friend a new bicycle. I will pay for the bicycle."

John ran to his daddy, put his arms around his neck, and with tears running down his cheeks, he whispered in his daddy's ear, "Thank you, daddy. I love you!"

That is a good picture of what our Heavenly Father has done for us. We all make mistakes—it is always a mistake to disobey God's Word. The Bible calls that sin, but the Bible tells us that our Father loved us so

much that he sent his only Son to die on the cross to pay for our sin. There is no way that we could ever repay him for what he has done for us. All we can do is say, "Thank you" and try to show him how much we love him.

That is what today's Bible lesson teaches us. (Read Luke 7:41-47)

How often do you tell your heavenly Father that you love him? How do you show it?

Dear Father, we love you and we just want to say, "Thank you." You paid a debt we can never repay. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

MONEY HUNT: Let children hunt for "monopoly" money around a designated room. Give two minutes (or shorter time length) for children to find \$1 bills. Run back to teacher when time is up. Then have children hunt for ONLY \$5 bills, etc. Continue to play as time allows.

PAY THE DEBT: Give children "monopoly" money and many small objects, candy, etc on a table. Children can take turns purchasing items until their money is gone. Provide little bags for their purchases.

PAY THE DEBT ART: Let children glue pretend money on a piece of paper and write words from our lesson today, such as A DEBT WE CAN NEVER REPAY, and write \$ signs in various colored markers around the edge of the paper.

THANK YOU JESUS in \$\$\$: Provide children with a piece of paper and markers to write THANK YOU JESUS in \$ signs. Children can lightly with a pencil first trace the words for THANK YOU JESUS FOR PAYING MY DEBT and then use the markers to put small colored \$ signs all along the lines for the words!

DEBT ACROSTIC: The teacher can write DEBT down the left side of a large piece of paper and children can give words for each letter that might describe all that Jesus has done for us in paying for our debt. Let each child write a word for each letter, so there will be more than one word for each letter. If children are older, they could use a colored marker and write their own word, instead of the teacher writing it!

DEBT CHAIN: Provide small strips of paper for children to write ideas of what Jesus has done for them. Let the children make their strips of paper into loops and connect to another loop and make a DEBT CHAIN to hang on the classroom wall!

BIBLE VERSE SKIT: Let one child be a narrator and slowly read today's Bible verse as other children act out the verse, as a skit. Children can take turns playing the different parts of the oil and the kiss and the feet washing, etc. When children are done with the play acting, as time allows, the teacher can slowly read the verse again and see if the children can fill in some of the Bible verse words.

DEBT STONE: Give each child a smooth rock to paint a cross or a heart and THANK YOU JESUS, etc on their own DEBT STONE. If a stone isn't available for each child, then let children cut out a large oval circle as a stone would look like and cut out and paint their debt stone and take home to remember to thank Jesus every day for the debt that HE paid for us.

DEBT HAND: Give children supplies to draw their own hand. On each finger with a different colored marker, let children write (thumb) DEBT; (pointer finger) "I"; (middle finger) Can; (ring finger) Never; (pinkie finger) Repay. Color their hands lightly with a crayon and at the same time, let all the children put their colored hands UP and give a HIGH FIVE to Jesus!!

THANK YOU CIRCLE: Children can form a circle and go around the circle in taking turns to say ONE thing to THANK JESUS for because of the DEBT that HE paid for our sins.