

Unit 23: The Teachings of Jesus

Unit Description: Jesus taught like no one else—as One who has authority. Everything Jesus taught about revealed what God’s kingdom is like, the kingdom that Jesus had come to establish in full.

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.



SESSION 1: Jesus Taught about Character
Matthew 5



SESSION 2: Jesus Taught about Behavior
Matthew 6



SESSION 3: Jesus Taught about God’s Love
Luke 15



SESSION 4: Jesus Taught about God’s Kingdom
Matthew 13



SESSION 5: We Are Part of God’s Kingdom
Matthew 22; Luke 14



UNIT 23 | SESSION 5

WE ARE PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM

MATTHEW 22; LUKE 14

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Chronicles 29:11

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.
1 Chronicles 29:11 NIV

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus invites us to join Him in heaven—the great wedding feast. When we receive His invitation, Jesus gets us ready by clothing us in His righteousness. Salvation is a free gift for everyone who trusts in Christ.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

What makes someone worthy? Have you ever wondered that? What makes someone worthy of the situation they find themselves in? What makes someone worthy of high degrees of responsibility or leadership? What makes someone worthy of recognition or acclaim?

For someone who has been exposed to the things of God, it's common to ask, what makes someone worthy of the blessings of God?

Jesus told a parable in Matthew 22 that speaks to this question. The answer is that they have responded to the invitation of the King. Metaphorically, this parable teaches that, "Many are invited, but few are chosen." And those that are chosen are worthy.

Contrary to what our culture tells us, what makes someone worthy is not their accomplishments, their position, or the acclaim. The ultimate answer to this question is not found in what someone does, but by the grace of the King of the universe.

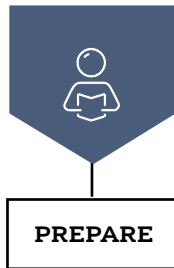
Ephesians 2:8-10 says, "For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do."

The good that we do is an outflow of our worthiness, given to us by the grace of God through faith in Him. It is not the other way around. We do not do good works to earn His grace or to prove our worth.

We ought to be careful to understand that worthiness comes out of a gift that has been given by God. And that He is the only King able to assign us worth. He did that when He created all of us. Let us seek to find our worth in nothing less than this.

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

Church and kingdom:
The church's mission is to proclaim God's message of salvation through Christ and demonstrate the power of the gospel through good works.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- “What Doesn’t Belong?” activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- paper plates, 1 per team
- paper cups, 1 per team
- plastic forks, 1 per team
- plastic spoons, 1 per team
- plastic knives, 1 per team
- placemats, 1 per team
- napkins, 1 per team



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- “We Are Part of God’s Kingdom” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- dirty robe (optional)

Questions from Kids

- “Unit 23, Session 5” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- “Byrd Family and St. Louis Photos” printable

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “Yours (1 Chronicles 29:11)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- table tennis ball



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- aluminum foil sheets, 1 per group
- chenille craft stems, 5–10 per group
- cardstock, 1 per group

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “Invite to the Kingdom” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever been to a wedding? Did you eat at the wedding? Whose wedding was it? What kind of clothes do people wear to weddings?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What Doesn’t Belong?” on the activity page.

SAY “Today, we will hear a parable, Jesus told about a great wedding feast. Many people were invited but they refused to come. Jesus invites us to be a part of His kingdom.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WHAT TO WEAR?



Lead kids to think about how certain clothes can help us distinguish where someone might be going or what activity they might participate in. Present a variety of options for kids to determine what clothes might be appropriate for the occasion. Consider using the following examples or choose your own:

- School
- Baseball practice
- Dance class
- Funeral
- Horseback riding
- Wedding
- Farming
- Fancy dinner party

SAY “We probably wouldn’t wear overalls to a fancy dinner party, but we would wear them if we were farming. In our Bible story, we will learn that a man came to the wedding feast in the wrong clothes. Let’s get ready to hear our story to learn why clothes were an important part of Jesus’ story.”

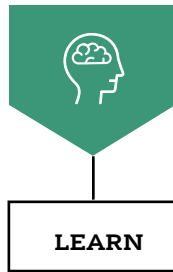
OPTION 2: SET THE TABLE

Before the session, gather paper plates, paper cups, plastic dining utensils, two placemats, and napkins. Form kids into two teams and ask each team to have kids stand in a line shoulder to shoulder. Place the items in a pile in front of the first kid in each line. Direct kids to pass each item down the line one at a time. Lead the kids at the end of each line to place the item on the table to set the table. If someone drops an item, tell kids it must return to the beginning of the line. The first team to set the table wins.

SAY “Imagine having to set tables for an enormous wedding feast! That would be a lot of hard work. In our Bible story, we will learn that God has prepared a wedding feast for all who believe in Jesus. We don’t have to work to enjoy the feast because Jesus has done the work for us.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so happy to see you today! Every time we meet together, we learn from God’s Word. Everything in the Bible is true, because God is true. Scripture is a gift from God to help us learn more about who He is and how we can know Him. Please take out your Bibles. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

The Bible teaches us that every person is invited to believe in Jesus and be welcomed into His kingdom. However, not everyone accepts this invitation. In our story, we will learn that Jesus told a parable to teach how some will reject Jesus and how it is only those who believe in Jesus that are invited into His kingdom. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

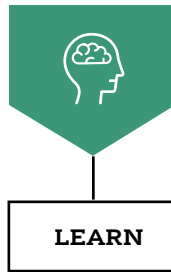
SAY “ For the past few weeks, we have learned that Jesus taught about His kingdom. Do you remember our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is, **What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?** Let’s say the answer together: **Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.**

Jesus invites us to join Him in His kingdom. When we read from the Bible, we can ask God to help us trust Him and believe His words. We are a part of God’s kingdom when we place our faith in Jesus. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Today, we will finish our study of Jesus’ parables about His kingdom. What are some of the parables that you remember from last time? [Allow responses.] Jesus’ parables revealed truths about His kingdom. His parables explained how people in His kingdom should live. We also learned that His parables taught us what His kingdom is like. God’s kingdom is growing in the world and we are invited to live for His kingdom rather than the things of this world. Today, we will read a parable Jesus taught about guests who were invited to a king’s wedding feast. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 22; Luke 14. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “We Are Part of God’s Kingdom.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

WE ARE PART OF GOD’S KINGDOM

“ Jesus often told parables, or stories, to teach people about God’s kingdom. **One of the parables Jesus used to teach people was about a wedding feast. Jesus said, “This is what God’s kingdom is like. A king’s son was getting married, so the king prepared a big wedding feast. The king sent out his servants to tell everyone who was invited to the banquet that the feast was ready. The servants went out and came back. They told the king that the people did not want to come.**

“So the king sent out his servants again. The king said, ‘Tell the guests that I have prepared a feast! I have killed the best oxen and fattened cattle. Dinner is ready! Come to the wedding banquet!’

“The servants went out, but the people did not listen to the king’s message. One man went to his farm, and another man went to his business. Some of the people even captured the king’s servants and killed them. When the king found out what happened, he was angry! The king sent out his army, punished the murderers, and burned down their city.

“Then the king told his servants, ‘The feast is ready, but the people who were invited do not deserve to come to my feast. Go out to the streets and invite everyone you see.’

“So the servants went out and did what the king asked. They invited all the people they saw—good people and evil people. The wedding feast was filled with guests. **But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who was not dressed in the right clothes for a wedding.**

“The king said to the man, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless.

“The king ordered his servants, ‘Tie this man up hand and foot, and throw him out.’”

Jesus ended His story by saying, “Many people are invited to God’s kingdom, but only a few are chosen.”

Christ Connection: Jesus invites us to join Him in heaven—the great wedding feast. When we receive His invitation, Jesus gets us ready by clothing us in His righteousness. Salvation is a free gift for everyone who trusts in Christ. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Active listening: Instruct the kids to pretend to put a crown on their heads every time they hear the word “king” during the story.

Dress the part: Wear nice clothes under a dirty robe. Emphasize how dirty the robe is when you read about the man wearing the wrong clothes in the story. Reveal the nice clothes under the robe and explain how Jesus clothes us in His righteousness.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ The invitation to the kingdom of God is available to all people. But not all will accept Jesus’ invitation to join Him in His kingdom. To help explain this to His disciples, Jesus told a parable. How many times did the king send out servants to invite people to the wedding feast? **[Allow responses.]** The king sent out his servants three times. Many people ignored the servants’ invitations and told them they did not want to come. When the servants tried again, the people got very angry with them and even killed some of the king’s servants. When we tell people about Jesus and His invitation to be a part of His kingdom, people may not always be nice or want to hear the gospel. Some may ignore us and some may even become angry with us. No matter the cost, followers of Jesus should obey Him and still share Jesus with others.

What happened to the people who hurt the king’s servants? Look at Matthew 22:7. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 22:7 responses.]** They were punished and judged by the king. Sometimes followers of Jesus will face persecution or even death for sharing the gospel. But God is with His people. We have the hope of living forever with Him in His kingdom. We also continue to share the good news of Jesus because there will be people who believe.

The king’s servants went outside the city and invited all the people they saw. The wedding was filled with many different people. Why did the man get thrown out of the wedding feast? **[Allow responses.]** He was not wearing the right clothes. His unfit clothes are like the sin in our lives. We cannot enter God’s kingdom when our sin has not been washed away. The only way to be made right with God is to trust in Jesus for salvation. When we do, Jesus gives us His righteousness and takes away our sin. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Jesus invites us to join Him in heaven—the great wedding feast. When we receive His invitation, Jesus gets us ready by clothing us in His righteousness. Salvation is a free gift for everyone who trusts in Christ. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 23, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What should we do if we invite a friend to church and she doesn’t want to come?
2. Why is it important to never stop sharing the gospel with others?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Byrd Family and St. Louis Photos” as you tell the story.

SAY “ Ten years ago, Michael and Traci Byrd left an inner-city neighborhood of St. Louis. Now,



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

God called them to move back to this neighborhood to share the love of Christ with the people living there. God has given Michael and Traci a love for their neighborhood and given them creative ways to help the people.

The Byrds planted a church called Faith Community Bible Church. They began building relationships with the people by sharing meals with them, offering group cooking lessons, and even taking people to the grocery store. As they find ways to meet the needs of people in the area, they have opportunities to tell them about Jesus. ”

Tell kids that missionaries have a goal to start 75 new churches in the St. Louis area in the next five years. Explain that missionaries in the area and other Christians hope that starting new churches in St. Louis will help change the city for the glory of Jesus. Pray for the work the Byrds are doing in their neighborhood of St. Louis. Pray for more churches to be started in other neighborhoods of St. Louis.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Chronicles 29:11 together.

SAY “ The God of all of heaven and earth invites us to join Him in His kingdom. Only when we accept Jesus’ invitation to believe in Him for forgiveness can we enter the kingdom of God. ”

Form kids into pairs and provide each pair with a table tennis ball. Lead pairs to alternate saying one word of the key passage back and forth to one another while bouncing the ball back and forth as well. Continue until the key passage is complete. Switch partners and complete the activity again.

Lead kids to sing “Yours (1 Chronicles 29:11).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

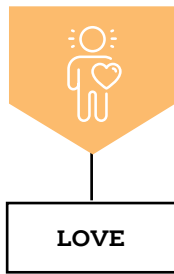
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Dear God, thank You for Your love for us and for inviting us to become a part of Your kingdom through faith in Jesus. Help us share the good news of Jesus with others. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 22. Explain that Matthew was written by a tax collector named Matthew, one of Jesus' disciples. Tell kids that tax collectors were not well liked by others and often cheated people of their money.

Consider comparing the New Testament Israel Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand that Jesus told this parable in Jerusalem (H5). (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 22:10.

SAY “ In Matthew 9, Jesus approached Matthew and said, ‘Follow Me.’ Matthew stood up and followed Jesus. In our story today, we learned that Jesus invites everyone to join Him in His kingdom. Regardless of who you are or what bad things you have done, the invitation from Jesus is for all of us. We accept Jesus’ invitation when we believe in Him and repent of our sins. It is only by faith in Jesus that we are clothed in righteousness and accepted in God’s kingdom. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why do you think Jesus compares God’s kingdom to a wedding feast? ”

Discuss how the kingdom of God is a place of joy, abundance, and goodness. Remind kids that our world is broken because of sin and we have sadness, pain, and death. Tell kids that God’s kingdom will become the new heavens and the new earth where we will be joined to Jesus forever.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rev. 19:6-9.)

SAY “ How should we respond when we share the gospel and people reject it? ”

Answers will vary. Discuss how it can be discouraging to share the gospel and people choose to reject it. Remind kids that many people rejected Jesus while He was on earth and yet He still told people to believe in Him. Encourage kids to be faithful to share about Jesus, knowing they are working for the Lord and not people.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 5:11-12.)

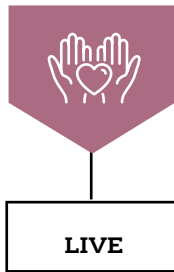
SAY “ Who can you share Jesus with? Who do you know that hasn’t yet accepted Jesus’ invitation to believe in Him for salvation? ”

Answers will vary. Remind kids that the servants in the parable went and told people inside the city and people outside the city about the wedding feast. Tell kids that all people need to have an opportunity to be invited to trust in Jesus because without hearing the gospel they cannot be saved.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 10:10.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: ST. LOUIS ARCH



Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with a sheet of aluminum foil, 5–10 chenille craft stems, a piece of cardstock, markers, and glue. Lead each group to work together to fold the aluminum foil into a 2-inch wide strip. Direct each group to intertwine their chenille craft stems to create a thicker band and place the band on the 2-inch wide aluminum foil strip, leaving a 1-inch space on each end of the aluminum foil.

Lead each group to wrap the foil around the chenille band and fold in the 1-inch ends of the foil to create a foot. Glue each foot to the cardstock so the arch is upright. Direct groups to draw trees around the arch and water on one side of the arch.

SAY “ The Gateway Arch in St. Louis is a 630-foot-tall monument that was built to celebrate pioneers’ expansion westward. We can display our arches to celebrate missions work in St. Louis. ”

OPTION 2: PARABLE PLAYS



Form kids into four or five groups and assign each group a parable they have learned over the past several weeks. Tell groups that they will have four minutes to prepare a short play about their assigned parable. Invite each group to perform their play for the rest of the kids. Then lead kids to discuss the important truth Jesus communicated from each parable.

SAY “ Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him. The parables Jesus taught each helped us understand different truths about God’s kingdom and how people in His kingdom live. For example, we learned that people in God’s kingdom live to honor God and treasure His kingdom. We also learned that God’s kingdom is growing in the world and that we participate in kingdom growth. Today, we learned that everyone is invited to become a part of His kingdom when we place our faith in Jesus. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God that we have been invited to His kingdom and that His invitation is a free gift through faith in Jesus. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Invite to the Kingdom” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 23 • Session 5

WE ARE PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Matthew 22; Luke 14

**WHAT DID JESUS TEACH WHEN HE WAS ON EARTH?
JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD AND HIS KINGDOM. HE TAUGHT THAT ALL
SCRIPTURE IS ABOUT HIM.**

One of the parables Jesus used to teach people was about a wedding feast. Jesus said, "This is what God's kingdom is like. A king's son was getting married, so the king prepared a big wedding feast. The king sent out his servants to tell everyone who was invited to the banquet that the feast was ready. The servants came back. They told the king that the people did not want to come.

"So the king sent out his servants again. The king said, 'Tell the guests that I have prepared a feast! Come to the wedding banquet!'

"The servants went out, but the people did not listen.

"Then the king told his servants, 'The feast is ready, but the people who were invited do not deserve to come to my feast. Go out to the streets and invite everyone you see.'

"So the servants went out and did what the king asked. They invited all the people they saw. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who was not dressed in the right clothes for a wedding.

"The king said to the man, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?'

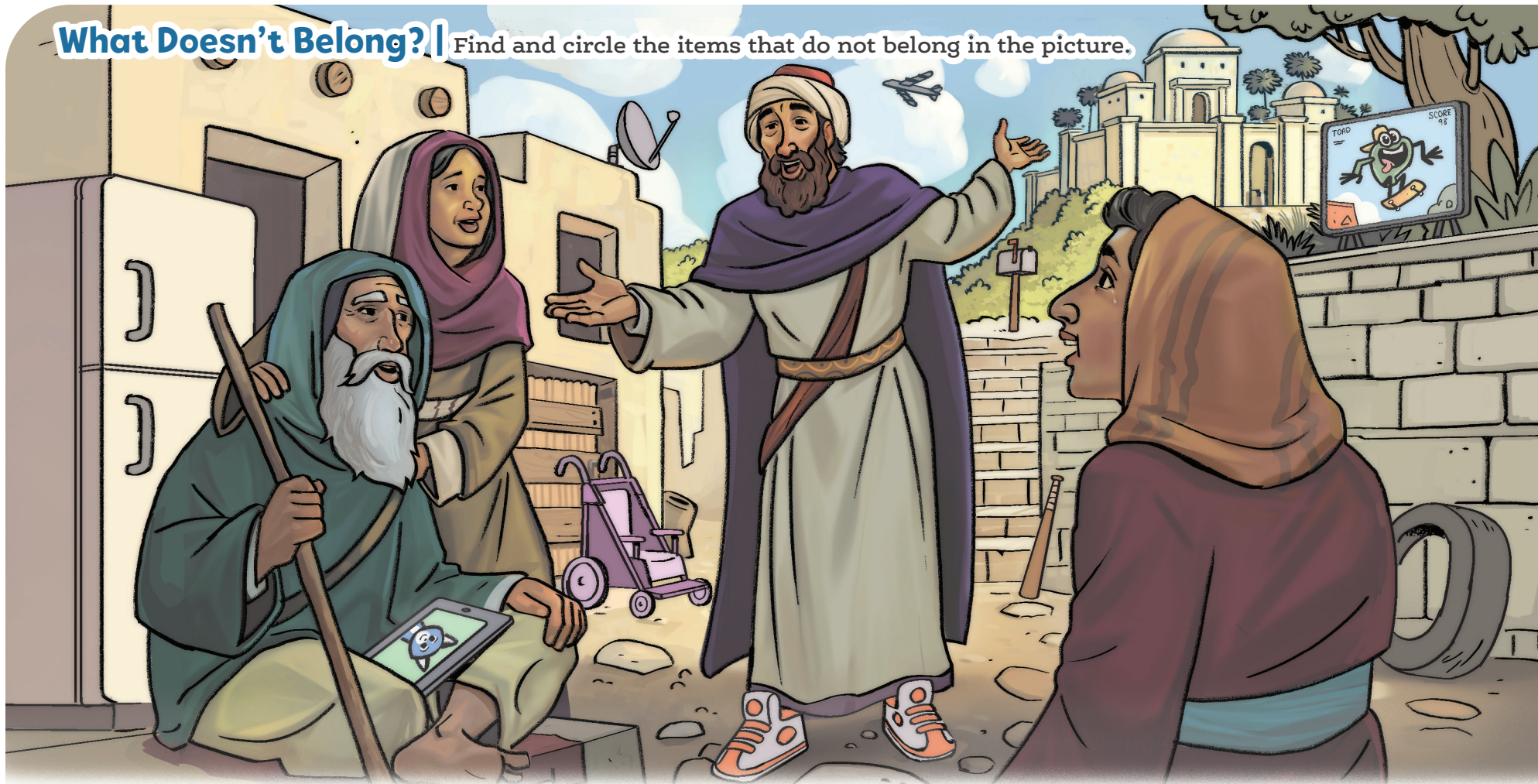
"The king ordered his servants, 'Throw him out.'"

Jesus ended His story by saying, "Many people are invited to God's kingdom, but only a few are chosen."

Christ Connection: Jesus invites us to join Him in heaven—the great wedding feast. When we receive His invitation, Jesus gets us ready by clothing us in His righteousness. Salvation is a free gift for everyone who trusts in Christ.

FOLD

What Doesn't Belong? | Find and circle the items that do not belong in the picture.



Invite to the Kingdom

Write a note to a friend explaining how we can enter the kingdom of God. Look up John 3:3 and 1 John 5:1,11.





NAME:



We Are Part of God's Kingdom

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Jesus told a parable about a king who invited people to his wedding feast. The people did not want to come.
- Eventually, the king's servants invited everyone they could find and the wedding was filled with guests.
- A man was thrown out because he was not wearing the right wedding clothes.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus invites us to join Him in heaven—the great wedding feast. When we receive His invitation, Jesus gets us ready by clothing us in His righteousness. Salvation is a free gift for everyone who trusts in Christ.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Chronicles 29:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.