

Materials I Need:

Legend:

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Bolded Words in Story = Key concepts to Highlight during the Bible Adventure

Memory Work:

**“In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”
Luke 14:33**

Aim Questions:

1. **At whose house did Jesus go to eat and how did they react to Him? Why did they ask Him to come?**
2. **When Jesus told the story of the great banquet, who refused to come and who accepted the invitation?**
3. **What did Jesus say to the crowd about becoming His disciple, and how do you do this?**
4. **Jesus told me to carry my cross. What does this mean, and how do I do this?**
5. **Why does Jesus tell you to sit at the back rather than to take the seat of honor?**
6. **What does it mean to count the cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ? What will it cost you?**

 **Hook:**

Set the Table (Activity/Game). Bring dishes, silverware, etc. for a full place-setting. Let students try to set a proper table. Bring two or more settings and make it a game to see which team can do the best job. Don't forget napkins. A specially folded napkin just might be the tiebreaker. Jesus was invited to a special dinner at the house of a Pharisee. He did and said some things his host didn't expect!

Turn the Tables! (Activity/Role-play). Put desks or tables together and cover them with a table cloth to form a facsimile of a banquet table. A center-piece or even candles (not lit) would help the illusion. Then set the table for the number of students you expect, but make about half of the places noticeably better than the others. This could be as simple as putting fancy napkins with two cookies on one side of the table and plain napkins with one cookie on the other side. Watch students try to occupy the “places of honor.” Make sure snacks are wrapped or covered and tell them not to eat until they are directed to do so. Follow up with the following presentation idea: At the place in the Bible Adventure where Jesus talks about taking a low place instead of risking embarrassment by taking the place of honor, ask the students in the “low places” at your table to move to the “places of honor” and ask the other students to take the “low places.” These students may actually feel some the humiliation Jesus was talking about.

Edinburg's Folly (Trivia). In 1822, the construction of the National Monument on Calton Hill in

Edinburgh began. It was to be a memorial to those who gave their lives during the Napoleonic wars. Designed by William Henry Playfair, initially it was to be a reproduction of the Parthenon at Athens. Money however, ran out and the project was abandoned in 1829. Over the years the fragment of this memorial came to be known as Edinburgh's Folly. Webster defines folly as: "a lack of understanding, sense, or rational conduct; foolishness; an action that ends or can end in disaster." Its incomplete state is a reminder to many that decisions based on impulsiveness, however well-meaning, can lead to disaster. Listen to today's Adventure to hear how Jesus explained how we also must wisely count the cost of what it takes to be a true disciple. It is all too easy to be an unfinished project abandoned by distractions and lack of commitment.



Musical chairs: Play musical chairs. The last person left standing when the music stops can choose to take the seat of one of the players that ended up in a chair. That person is now out and play continues.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



The Great Banquet (Illustration/Overhead). Luke 14:21b "...Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame." **BLUK14.GF1**



Unfinished Tower (Illustration/Overhead). Luke 14:28, 29 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it. For if he lays to foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'" **BLUK13.GF2**



A King's Surrender (Illustration/Overhead). Luke 14:31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?" **BLUK13.GF3**

Bible Adventure -

Everyone is familiar with the classic children's story where the dishonest tailor sells invisible clothes to the emperor of the kingdom. The emperor is so puffed up with pride he actually appears in public without a stitch of clothing on, all because he is too proud to admit that he can't see these "perfect clothes" the tailor has made for him.

Pride can cause us to make bad decisions. It causes us to focus on ourselves and blinds us to the truth. Jesus met many people in His ministry who had a problem with pride. Among His own countrymen there were many like this. We've already spoken several times about the wrong ideas the Jews had about God's Kingdom. They could not see the kingdom, even though it stood right in front of them in the person of Jesus Christ. They were much like the flimflammed emperor, holding on to a false idea and refusing, because of pride, to give it up.

Jesus had been invited to dinner with some Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. It was not a friendly invitation--the men were watching Jesus closely to see if they could catch Him saying or doing something they could use against Him. Jesus was not intimidated by this group. He picked up right where He had left off with them previously. After asking them if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not, He healed a man who was suffering from a disease. Jesus reminded them that all the rules they had created about what they could and could not do on the Sabbath had choked out any simple caring for people's needs. When they did not respond to His words, Jesus continued to try to reach these men and to correct their false ways of thinking. As He watched people coming in to dinner, He noticed that many of them took the seats of honor at the table. It seemed to be a good place to begin to teach these men about God's values. "When someone invites you to a wedding feast," Jesus told them, "do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited." Jesus went on to say that they would be terribly embarrassed when the host came over and asked them to move so that the more distinguished guest could sit there. Just imagine how you would feel. You would have to get up in front of that room full of people and take a less important spot. Everyone in the room would know what the host's opinion of you was. The better way to do it, Jesus told them, would be to take the lowest place to begin with, then the host would come to them and ask them in front of everyone to move to a better

place. The Lord was teaching them that if we insist on being prideful and trying to impress everyone we are going to be humbled, and probably embarrassed. If we humble ourselves, however, God is pleased to lift us up and honor us.

Then Jesus spoke to His host, telling him that if he were to give a lunch or dinner, he should not invite his friends or family or rich neighbors. If he did that he could be assured of getting an invitation to their homes, or something else in return. He should instead invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. These people had nothing to give him in return for his kindness. The host would be showing an example of God's kingdom being open to all kinds of people. God would bless him for his actions.

A man sitting at the table with Jesus heard all this talk about feasts and made the comment that the person who would eat at the feast in the kingdom of God would be blessed. Like many of the people sitting there, this man did lots of talking about the kingdom, but he didn't have the faintest idea of how to get in. You can almost see him sitting there, chest puffed out, as he said, "Yes sir. It's going to be a grand feast. I and my friend and my family, in fact all of God's chosen people are going to be there. We're going to dine with God Himself!" This was exactly the kind of thinking that was going to keep so many of these people out of the Kingdom, and Jesus longed for them to know it. He told another parable to try to teach them about how they could enter into it.

The parable was about a man who was preparing a great banquet and had already invited many guests. When everything was ready he sent out his servant to let all the guests know it was time to come. To the man's amazement, they all began making excuses as to why they could not come. The servant returned to his master and reported these things. The man became very angry and ordered his servant to go and invite the poor and crippled to his banquet. Then the man had his servant go out to the countryside and invite guests until his house was full. He declared that not one person who had originally been invited would even get to taste his banquet.

The message Jesus was giving here was very clear. There were many present at the home of the Pharisee that day who had original invitations to God's feast. The Jews had a long history of God caring for them and protecting them. They got to thinking that because they were Jews they would always have an inside edge with God. Jesus, however, was presenting Himself as the only way to enter God's kingdom. Like the guests invited to the banquet, many were giving excuses why they could not follow Him. Jesus wanted them to understand that nothing was as important as accepting His offer of the kingdom. Because God's own people were rejecting that, God was now offering it to others. They would come to a day when they would witness their own rejection from the banquet they anticipated for so long. As you know, not everyone who listened to Jesus rejected His message. There were many who were seeking to know what it meant to really follow Him. Jesus made it clear that it was a decision to be considered carefully. He wanted them to examine how serious they were about being His disciple. He said to them, "if anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple." The Bible teaches we are to honor our father and mother, husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and we are all to care for one another. So what could Jesus have meant when he used the word "hate"? First of all, we need to remember that Jesus was speaking to Jewish people. To them, choices were all or nothing. If someone chose to follow, serve, or believe, there would be no turning back. When Jesus said to them that they must hate their family members if they came to Him, He meant that that person was making a choice to put before anyone else in his life. They would determine to follow Jesus and would never consider turning their back on him for any reason. Loyalty to Jesus had to come before loyalty to family. Jesus wanted the disciple's love for Him to be so powerful that it would make love for family almost seem like hate.

Not only does Jesus want first place in our lives, He wants us to make sure we understand the cost of discipleship before we begin. He used the example of a man preparing to build a tower. The builder would sit down and carefully weigh the cost of the tower before he even began to build, so that he would be sure to be able to finish the project. He also used the example of a king preparing to go to war against another king. He sat down and studied whether he would be able to win the battle with the resources he had. When he found he could not, he surrendered and saved his army from certain slaughter. Both men were counting the cost of involvement. Jesus wants us to do the same. As His disciples we are to be preparing to finish the course set before us. It is a course of denying self and committing to Christ.

Do you see yourself in any of the people in today's passage from Luke 14? Let's see if we can find some parallels. I think we can all admit to struggling with pride from time to time. It's easy to sit back and look at the pompous, prideful men at the dinner with Jesus, but ask yourself these questions: Do you sometimes subtly try to make yourself look better? Do you try to hang out with the right people, wear the right clothes, say the right things? Who do you try to impress? Maybe you try to make yourself appear humble by putting yourself down.

All these actions are self-centered. The kingdom of God concerns itself with humility, placing others above ourselves and submitting to God's right to rule in our lives. The Jews, who assumed that they were saved because they were Jewish, were offering excuses not to follow Jesus. They will be surprised when the kingdom feast excludes them and includes the outcasts of society--those they consider unclean. Don't you be surprised too, by relying on things other than wholeheartedly following Jesus Christ to admit you into God's kingdom. The choice to follow Him has to be an absolute one. Jesus is more important than family ties, especially if family is conflicting with your being His disciple. It requires that you count the cost by preparing your heart to give all that you have and are to His cause and purposes.



Look:



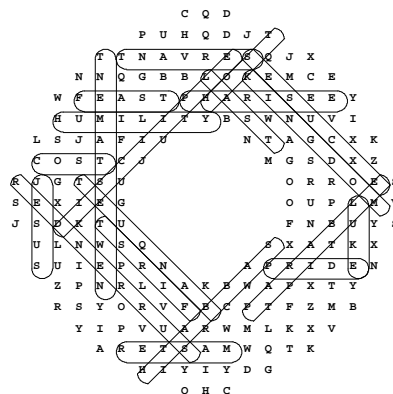
Place-mat (Worksheet). Reinforce the lesson with a place-mat full of activities. Enlarge and duplex copy the following onto 11 x 17 sheets.



BLUK13.GF4 pgs. 1, 2 Answer to Word Search:



BLUK13.GF4 pgs. 1, 3



Journey With Jesus (Journal). Make an entry in your journal. Any disciple might write something like this:

Jesus was invited to a banquet at a Pharisee's house. He might have offended his host. First, he healed a man on the Sabbath - again. They were watching Jesus, but they didn't say anything. Then Jesus told the guests not to sit in the places of honor without being asked, and he told them they should invite poor people to their dinners instead of their rich friends and relatives. Lots of people are following Jesus now. He told them that if they want to be his disciple, they must give up everything



There Were Ten in a Row (Song). Sing the following words to the tune of "There were ten in a bed and the little one said..." Have kids sit in chairs one behind the other. After the one in the front says, "I'm greatest, I'm greatest." That person quickly gets sent away by the leader and all the kids move up. Finally, the last child arrives at the front. However, instead of saying, "I'm greatest, I'm greatest", he or she says, "I'm least, I'm least".

There were ten (or however many) in a row
 And the first one said, "I'm greatest, I'm greatest."
 But Jesus said, "no,"
 So they all moved up.
 There were nine in a row
 and the first one said ...
 (etc. down to one – who has now learned his lesson and cries, "I'm least, I'm least.")



Please Excuse Me (Worksheet). Luke 14:15-23 tells of a great banquet and how all the guests began to make excuses for not coming. This angered the host greatly for he wanted his many guests to enjoy the feast and fill his house. Have students put an X by the excuses used in the parable, **BLUK13.GF8**



Took:

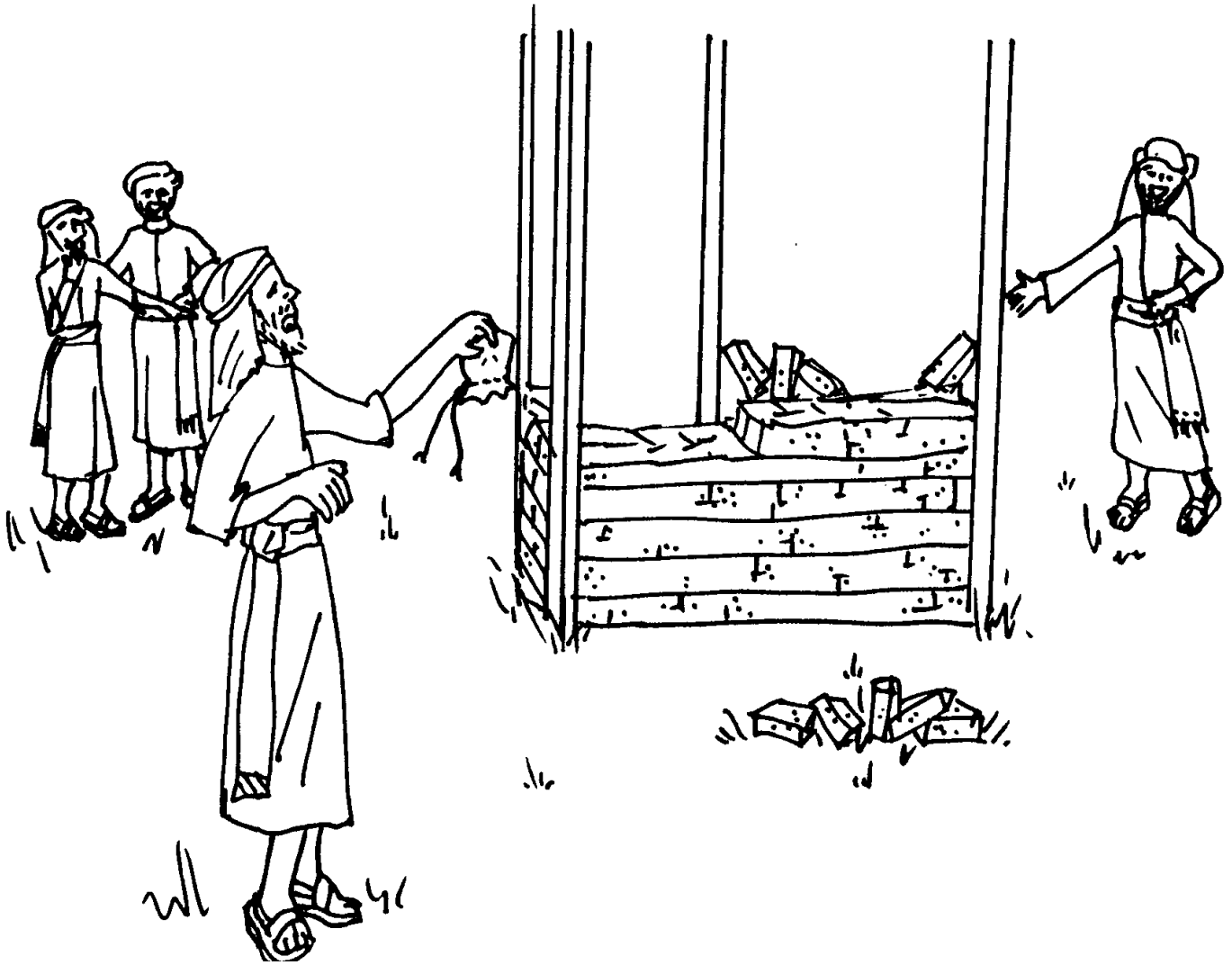
- Unexpected Invitation (Craft).** Think of the kids at your school or in your neighborhood who don't have a lot of friends or who don't usually get invited to things. Then fill out the invitation on **BLUK13.GF5** and invite one of these people to do something with you. **DEBRIEF:** You are like one of the unwanted. But Jesus reached out to you and wanted you anyway. Can you do the same?
- That's No Excuse (Worksheet).** In each box, write one of the excuses you use most for why you don't spend more time reading your Bible, praying or telling others about Jesus. **DEBRIEF:** People at the feast had every reason for not coming. Did they make it in? Now cut out the second sheet with the cross and have students paste it across the top of their excuse sheet – and mean it!
BLUK13.GF6
- Estimate the Cost (Worksheet).** Consider what Jesus wants from and for you. The Christian life does not always appear to be just blessings. Put an "X" across the statements you think are false,
BLUK13.GF7
- You Got a Problem With That? (Discussion).** Ask students to think of one thing about themselves that they consider to be a defect or a flaw. What one thing would they change about themselves if they could? This would be a good time for teachers to share an imperfection that they have struggled with. Our society can be pretty cruel to a person who is poor, or looks unusual, or isn't very smart. Make a list on the board of things that are considered "imperfect" or unacceptable in our society. It was no different in Bible times. People feared those who were sick or disabled and sometimes even made them live away from people who were "normal." ...But look who was welcomed into the banquet that represents the Kingdom of God. It was the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame! Do you think that any defect you might have could make you unwelcome in God's Kingdom? Absolutely not! The only thing that could keep you out is rejecting the invitation. The Kingdom of God was made for people who know they aren't perfect!
- Counting the Cost (Object Lesson).** Bring several plastic army men. Use them to illustrate the story in Luke 14: 31-33. Put a group of soldiers out on a table. Then put a group that is half the number of the first group a little way off. Hide the small group behind an object such as a couple of Bibles. Send out a "scout" from the small army that "sees" the larger army and comes back to report what he found. Discuss the option of surrender with the class. What will the members of the small army lose if they surrender? (They will lose the war and with it all their rights - maybe their homes and land). That's a high price to pay, but what will they lose if they don't surrender? (Their lives). (Running or hiding is not an option). Send out a "representative" from the small army to offer surrender to the larger army. ...This is a great illustration of what it means to become a disciple. When we surrender our lives to Jesus is the price too high? We must be willing to give up everything, but in so doing, we gain eternal life. If we, like the soldiers, refuse to surrender all, we ultimately lose our very lives. Review the memory verse which concludes this story in the text: "In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."
- Excuses, Excuses. (Discussion/Invitation).** The people who didn't come to the banquet all had excuses. The banquet represents the Kingdom of God. Today, people have many excuses for not coming when they are invited into the Kingdom. Have you heard any? Write them on the board. (Examples: Suffering in the world, They don't want to give up something, Christians are hypocrites, Church is boring, They're too busy) Have you responded to God's invitation? If not, what's your excuse? Will God accept excuses?
- A Few Bricks Short of a Full Load (Object Lesson).** Bring in a completed model of a Lego tower and place in the front of the classroom. Have ready two bags of Legos, one containing a complete set to reproduce the model tower and one which is short a few pieces. Split the group into two teams and tell them they are to make the tower with the same amount of bricks high and wide as the model. This will make it very obvious that one team has run out of bricks before it was completed. Suggest that maybe they should have counted their bricks before starting such a project.. Reinforce the

lesson of Edinburgh's Folly and the parable of the unfinished tower in Luke 14:28-30. **DEBRIEF:** What keeps us from finishing projects we start? When we say we will spend time studying God's Word, praying and sharing Christ with others and we don't, what is our excuse?

The Great Banquet

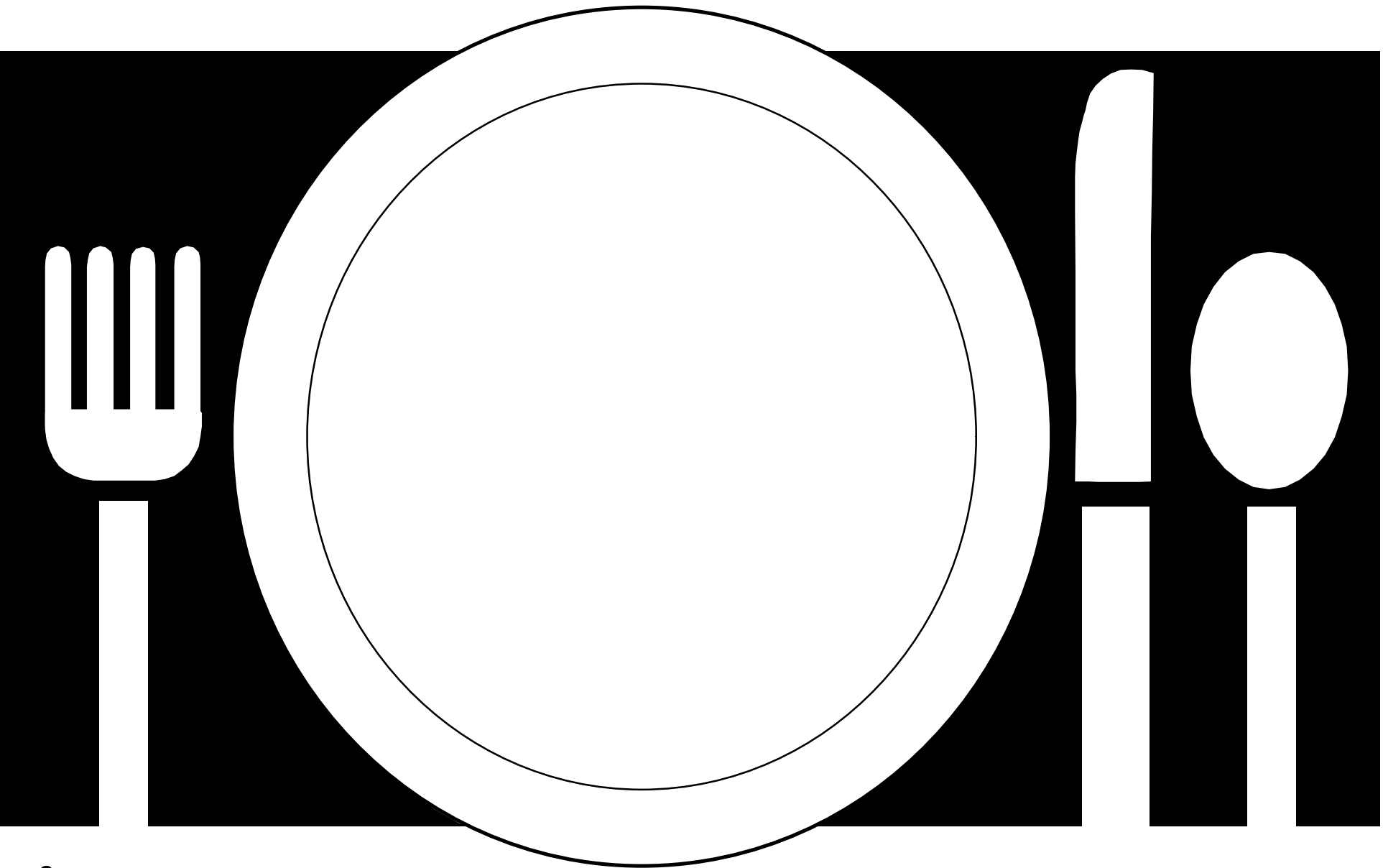


Unfinished Tower



A King's Surrender



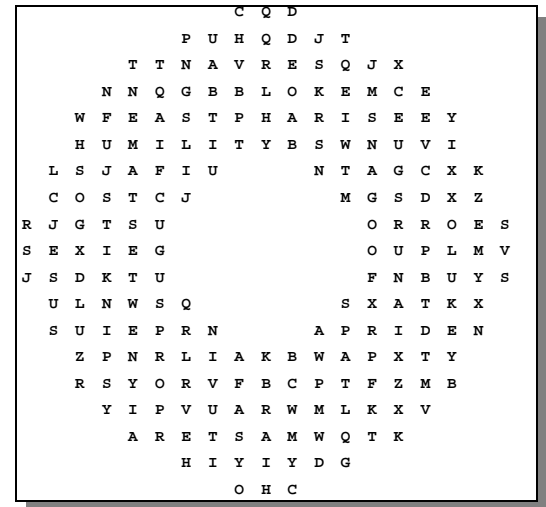




Welcome to the Great Banquet

Find the following words in the word search:

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------------|
| BANQUET | FEAST | JESUS | MASTER | PRIDE |
| COST | FIRST | KINGDOM | SABBATH | NEW TESTAMENT |
| DISCIPLE | HOST | LAST | PARABLE | SERVANT |
| EXCUSES | HUMILITY | LUKE | PHARISEE | SURRENDER |



FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

STARTING AT THE LARGE ARROW, WRITE DOWN THE LETTERS AS YOU GO ACROSS, DOWN AND BACKWARDS. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF THE ARROWS.

→	I	N	T	H	E	S
↓	Y	N	A	Y	A	W
↓	O	F	Y	O	U	W
↓	V	I	G	T	O	N
↓	E	U	P	E	V	E
↓	S	A	H	E	H	G
↓	C	A	N	N	O	T
↓	E	L	P	I	C	S
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	:	3	3			

BLUK13:GF4 pg. 2

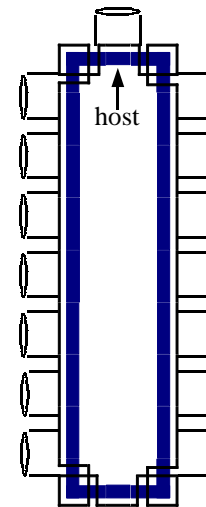


Color the picture. Circle the following persons or objects in the picture above.

- Blind man
- Crippled man's cane
- Lame man's mat
- Poor man's tin cup

TAKE A SEAT!

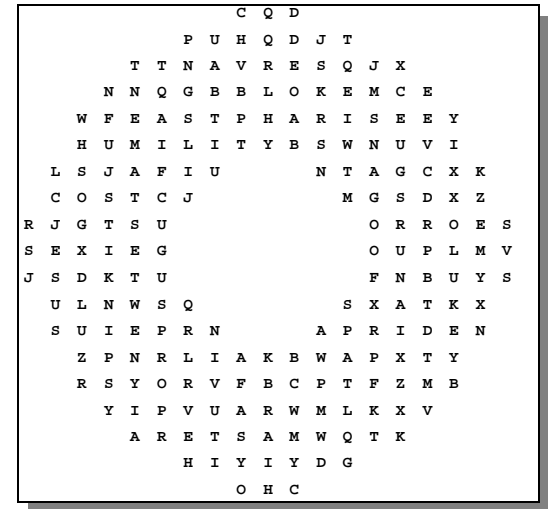
Places of honor were usually closest to the host at a banquet.



Color the chair where you would choose to sit.



Welcome to the Great Banquet



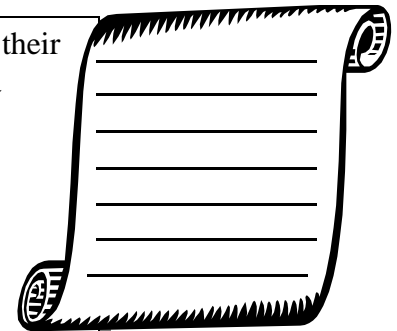
Find the following words in the word search:

Circle the correct word in the verse:
 “For everyone who (exalts – humbles) himself will be (exalted – humbled), and he who (humbles – exalts) himself will be (humbled – exalted).”
 Luke 14:11

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------------|
| BANQUET | FEAST | JESUS | MASTER | PRIDE |
| COST | FIRST | KINGDOM | SABBATH | NEW TESTAMENT |
| DISCIPLE | HOST | LAST | PARABLE | SERVANT |
| EXCUSES | HUMILITY | LUKE | PHARISEE | SURRENDER |

Jesus told the other guests that they should invite people to their banquets who could not repay. From these choices, make a guest list that would please Jesus. (Luke 14: 12-14).

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Blind man | Brother |
| Crippled man | Friend |
| Lame man | Poor man |
| Relative | Rich neighbor |



TO FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE START AT THE ARROW AND WRITE DOWN EVERY SECOND LETTER, BE SURE TO GO AROUND TWICE.

Complete this sentence three different ways:

_____ vs. 26

If anyone does not _____, he cannot be my disciple.

_____ vs. 27

_____ vs. 33



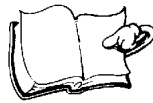
Time: _____
Date: _____

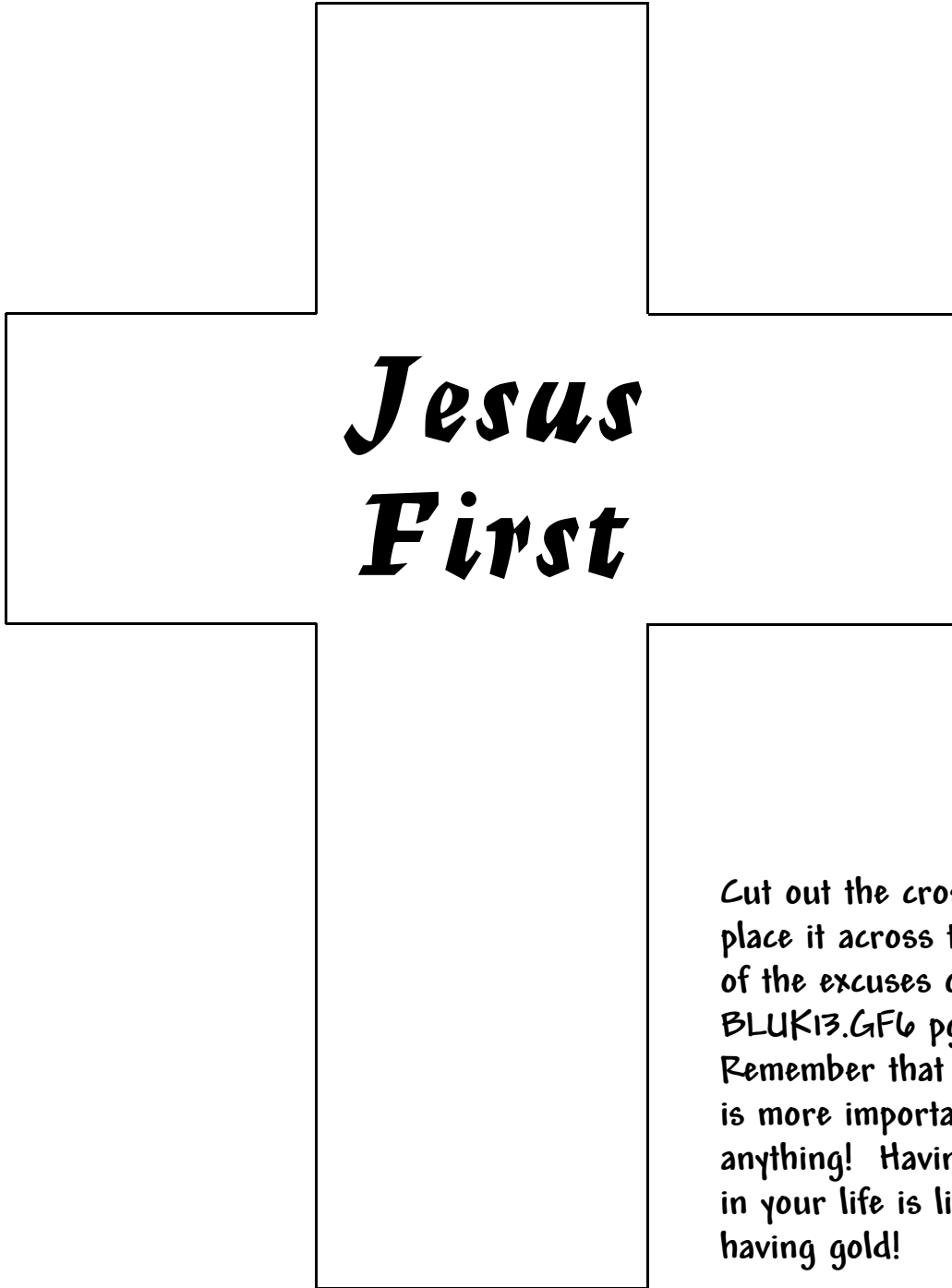


_____,
*You're
Invited to:*

THAT S NO EXCUSE

In each box, write your best or most used excuse for why you dont spend more time reading your Bible and praying or why you dont tell your friends about Jesus.



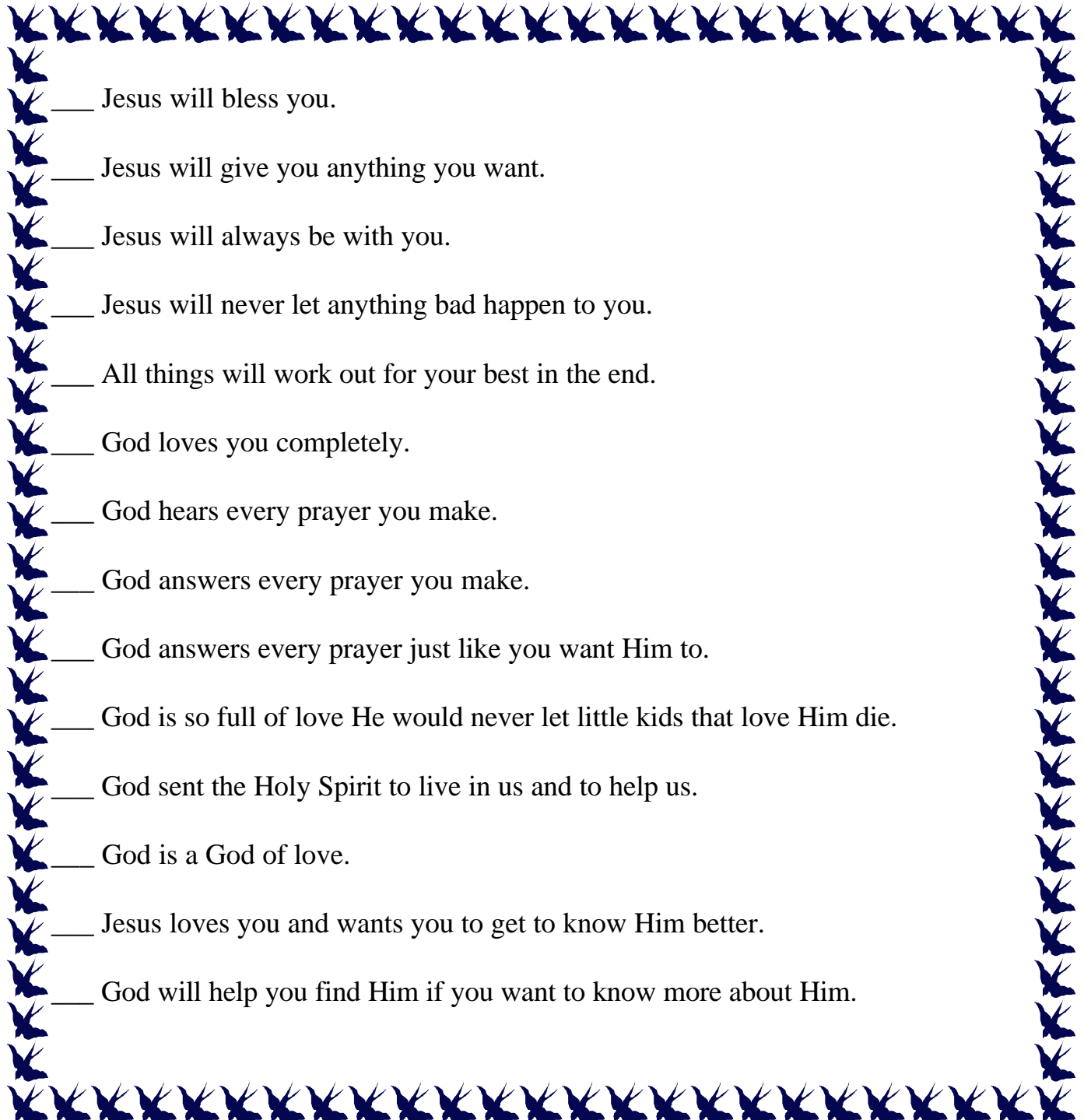


Cut out the cross and place it across the top of the excuses on BLUK13.GF6 pg. 1. Remember that Jesus is more important than anything! Having Him in your life is like having gold!

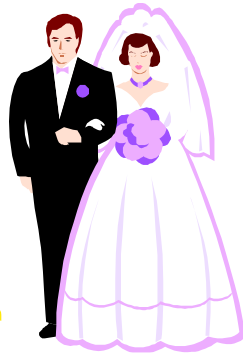
ESTIMATE THE COST

Consider what Jesus wants from you. Not everything in the Christian life goes just as you want. God wants you to know that so that you are strong when hard times come and can trust Him.

Read the following statements, and put an X before the ones that are not true.

- 
- Jesus will bless you.
 - Jesus will give you anything you want.
 - Jesus will always be with you.
 - Jesus will never let anything bad happen to you.
 - All things will work out for your best in the end.
 - God loves you completely.
 - God hears every prayer you make.
 - God answers every prayer you make.
 - God answers every prayer just like you want Him to.
 - God is so full of love He would never let little kids that love Him die.
 - God sent the Holy Spirit to live in us and to help us.
 - God is a God of love.
 - Jesus loves you and wants you to get to know Him better.
 - God will help you find Him if you want to know more about Him.

Please excuse me



Put an X next to the following excuses that the invited guests used in the parable of the Great Banquet.

- "I just got married, so I can't come."
- "I am with child and can't come."
- "I have just bought a field, and I must go see it."
- "I have just harvested my field and I must go burn it."
- "I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out."
- "I have just bought a new wardrobe and must try it on."