

Materials I Need:

Memory Verse:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. **A man gave a big banquet with lots of food. Who did the host invite to his banquet?** *(The host sent his servant to invite his friends and neighbors.)*
2. **Did the host's friends and family want to come to the banquet?** *(No. They said they were busy.)*
3. **What did the host do with all the food?** *(He sent the servant to invite people from the streets, the blind, the poor, and the lame.)*
4. **Did the street people want to come to the banquet?** *(Yes. They were happy to be invited.)*
5. **Does Jesus invite you to His kingdom banquet?** *(Yes)*
6. **Do you want to say "yes" to God's kingdom?** *(Yes)*

Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:

1. **What seats at the table did the proud Pharisees want to sit in?** *(They wanted the most important seats at the head of the table.)*
2. **What seats did Jesus say to take?** *("Take the least important seat because God lifts up humble people.")*
3. **Jesus told a parable about a man who invited friends and neighbors to his banquet. Why didn't they want to come?** *(They were too busy and they didn't love the host. One wanted to look at his new land. One wanted to check out his new oxen. One didn't want to leave his new bride.)*
4. **What did Jesus say about loving these things more than following Him?** *(Say the memory verse. Jesus said that nothing is more important than following Him.)*
5. **Were the Pharisees like the busy people who wouldn't come to the banquet, or were they like the blind and crippled who were happy to come?** *(The proud Pharisees did not receive Jesus' invitation to follow Him. The disciples were glad to leave what they were doing to follow Jesus.)*
6. **Do you want to love Jesus more than anything else?**

Key for symbols:

- This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.
- ② This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.
- ④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Hook:

- Kitchen Center:** Ask the Children's Department to loan you a kitchen stove and sink set along with utensils. Pretend to be making a big dinner for your family. Children can pretend to serve each other by offering a pretend chair, a pretend pizza or cookies, etc. Designate one chair for the daddy,

one for the mommy, one for the sister, and one for you. Talk about how each of the families sit around the table. In today's Bible Adventure, Jesus will talk about a big dinner party that will be held in God's kingdom. It will be a wonderful celebration.

Place Mat Craft Center: Let the children prepare for a large "banquet" today by making decorated place mats. Write "Kingdom Kid" on each place mat. Build enthusiasm for the big party throughout the morning. Talk about how Jesus wanted to invite lost people to His kingdom party.

Food Collage Center: Cut out pictures of food from magazines. Let the children make their own banquet collage by gluing the pictures to a piece of construction paper. Write the words "Jesus told a story about a big banquet. Luke 14:16" on the construction paper. Talk about what kinds of foods we fix when we are having a big celebration. "Jesus has invited us to His kingdom celebration, too. I want to say "yes" to Jesus.

④ **Invitation Center:** As the children come into class, give them each an invitation to one of the Activity centers. Pass out invitations to each center activity throughout the morning. Invite the children to the Bible Adventure, the various centers and to any games and activities. Let the children know that there will be something that tastes good at each center. Ask the children, "Will you accept the invitation?" The children will say "Yes" or "No." The children who refuse all invitations will be seated on the "no" chairs. They will not get a taste of the special treat at that center.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

Get ready for God's kingdom banquet by setting a table with place mats and a centerpiece. Talk about the invitation you have received from Jesus to attend His kingdom party. The Bible says that we are invited to His kingdom. There will be a big feast for us in heaven.

Show the **BLUK13ECGF1** and **BLUK13ECGF2** pictures as you tell the Bible Adventure.

② Draw a picture of a table on butcher paper or tape a large rectangular-shaped table to the wall. As you talk about the foods being prepared for the banquet, tape pictures cut from magazines up on the butcher paper or wall. When the collage is complete, there is a large banquet on the butcher paper.

Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's -

Jesus was sad about the Pharisees who knew God's book but didn't love Him. The Pharisees were being invited to God's kingdom, but they were saying, "No. We don't love you, Jesus! We don't want to come to Your kingdom!"

Jesus told a parable story to show that when people are invited to God's kingdom, they should say "yes" to Jesus.

(Show the GF2 picture of the dinner table.) Jesus said, "A man with a big house was planning a huge dinner party for many friends and neighbors. He said to his servant, "Go invite all my friends and neighbors to my party."

The servant went to the host's friends and neighbors and said, "Will you come to my master's banquet party?" They all said, "Yes, we will come."

The cooks cooked the roast beef. They cooked the chicken. They cooked the potatoes and corn. They baked the breads and cakes. There was so much food that it would feed all of the host's friends and neighbors.

The host said to the servant, "Go tell everyone that the banquet is ready!" The servant went to one friend's house and said, "The food is ready! Please come to the banquet."

The friend replied, "Oh, dear! I can't come to the banquet! I'm too busy. I have to go out to the field."

The servant went to another friend's house and said, "The food is ready! Please come to the banquet." The friend replied, "Oh, dear! I can't come to the banquet! I'm too busy. I have to go take care of my oxen."

Another man who had been invited said, "Oh, dear! I can't come to the banquet! I'm too busy. I have just gotten married and I can't leave my wife."

When the servant came back to the host and said, "Your friends and neighbors are too busy. They won't come to the banquet. What will we do with all the food? We don't want it to spoil."

The host was sad that none of his friends and neighbors wanted to be with him. He said, "The food will not be wasted. Go out into the streets and invite everyone you see. We'll fill the banquet room with people who want to be with us."

The servant went out into the streets and saw a blind person whose eyes couldn't see. The servant said to the blind man, "You are invited to a big banquet. Would you like to come?"

The blind man was hungry and said, "Wow! That would be fun. Thank you for inviting me. I'd love to come."

The servant invited everyone he could find. There were so many people who came that the banquet room was filled with hungry people, having a good time.

God wants lots of people in His kingdom, too, who are thankful to be invited. I want to say "yes" to Jesus' invitation, don't you?

Prayer: Dear God, I want to come to Your kingdom banquet. Thank You for inviting me. I love You more than anything. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K -

Jesus was sad about the Pharisees who knew God's book but didn't love Him. The Pharisees, the synagogue rulers and the teachers of the Law were being invited to God's kingdom, but they were saying, "No." They did not receive an invitation like this one, (*Show a written invitation.*) but Jesus was inviting the Pharisees every day to believe in Him as the holy Son of God, the One who would open the kingdom door. These Pharisees would not be in God's kingdom because they were saying "no" to Jesus' invitation.

One Sabbath, Jesus was eating in the home of an important Pharisee. He watched the men as they came and sat around the table. In Jesus' day, people sat on low couches around a table. The person giving the dinner sat at the head of the table. Next to the host was seated someone who was important to the host. From that seat to the foot of the table, the chairs were taken by the people who were not as close with the host. The Pharisees loved to look important and sit in the chairs closest to the host.

Jesus saw the Pharisees trying to sit in the best seats. These hypocrites who were full of selfish greed wanted everyone to respect them and think highly of them. They only cared about what people thought of them, not what God thought of them.

Jesus said, "Don't try to get the best seat for yourself." That is being proud and God hates selfish pride. Jesus said, "It is embarrassing when the host has to ask you to give up your seat so that a more important person can sit there. Instead, take the least important seat at the foot of the table. It is humble to let the host decide who should sit in the best place at his house."

The Pharisees didn't want to be humble. They didn't want to admit that they had selfish pride. They didn't want to tell Jesus they were sorry.

Jesus told a parable story to show that when people are invited to God's kingdom, they must receive the invitation and follow Jesus. (*Show the GF2 picture of the dinner table.*) Jesus said, "A man was preparing a huge dinner party for his friends and neighbors. He invited many guests to come to his banquet."

"When the time came for the dinner, the servant went out to tell people that it was time to come. People didn't have telephones in those days. They didn't have a mail carrier, either. When the servant told one man that the banquet was ready, he replied, "Oh, dear! I can't come! I just bought a piece of land and I have to go look at it." Another man who had been invited said, "I have just bought five yoke of oxen and I must go try them out." A third man who had been invited said, "I have just gotten married, so I can't come. Tell your master that I'm sorry, but I'm too busy."

Jesus said, "The man giving the banquet was sad because the invited guests didn't want to come to his home." He realized that the people didn't want to be with him. He could tell they didn't love him. All of his good food would go to waste.

"The man giving the banquet said to his servant, 'Go out in the streets and invite anyone who will come. We'll fill the banquet room with people who want to be with us.'"

That is the way Jesus felt about the Pharisees and teachers of the Law who were saying "No!" to following Him. God was inviting them to His kingdom feast and like the invited guests in the parable, they were saying "No." The Pharisees, the synagogue rulers and the teachers of the Law were saying, "We have more important things to do than be with You." We don't want to be Your disciples and follow You."

Getting an invitation to Jesus' kingdom banquet is even more important than getting an invitation from the president of the United States. If the president sent me an invitation to come eat with him at the White House, I would make sure that I changed all of my schedule so I could be there. I would get a

plane reservation and a hotel reservation because the president is the most important person in our government.

Jesus said, "I am more important than anything else. Nothing will keep My disciples from being close to Me, not even their families. Disciples must give up everything that would keep them from following Me and My words."

In Jesus' parable, He told the rest of the story. "The servant went out into the streets and invited anyone who would come to the banquet. The servant found blind people and lame people and poor people who were happy to come. They thought, "Wow! This will be fun. We're thankful to be invited. We'd love to come."

God wants people in His kingdom who are thankful to be invited. They are not too proud or busy to come when they are invited. They want to follow Jesus and learn to love God and their neighbors. Do you?

Prayer: Dear God, I want to come to Your kingdom banquet. Thank You for inviting me. Thank You for Jesus who opens the door to Your kingdom. I'm not too busy to come. I love You more than anything. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Look:

- Honor Chair Game Center:** This game is played like Musical Chairs. Decorate or designate an "honor" chair to be used in the game. Whoever sits on the honor chair when the music stops gets to put on a crown. All children will wear crowns at the banquet.
- "Who's the Greatest?" Coloring Center: (BLUK13ECGF1)** The Pharisees wanted to sit in the most important chair next to the host. Jesus said to take the least important seat. Sometimes the disciples argued about which of them would be greatest in God's kingdom. See if you can remember any of the disciples' names.
- Who Will Come to the Banquet? Review Center: (BLUK13ECGF2)** See if the children can tell the story by looking at the pictures. Talk about how nothing will keep a disciple from being with Jesus, not field work, not animals, and not marriage. Talk about wanting to be a good disciple, happy to be close to Jesus, and saying "yes" to Jesus' kingdom banquet.
- Best Seat Center: (BLUK13ECGF3)** In Jesus' day, the most important people at a banquet sat closest to the host. The host at the banquet on the GF3 page is at the center of the table. Glue GF4 people around the table from the most important seats to the least important seats. Jesus told people not to take the best seats at a banquet. Rather, let the host decide who will sit close to him. Talk about how we want to be close to Jesus, not because we like to act important, like the Pharisees, but because we love Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- Memory Verse Review:** (supplies - scissors, patterns, hot glue gun, pin backs, glue, glitter, and other decorations) Copy heart patterns onto cardstock paper. On each heart the words "I love my neighbor" are written. Have each child cut out a heart and decorate it any way they want. Use the hot glue gun to glue the pin back to the back of the heart. After the glue dries, the children will have a pin to wear all day! Have them say the memory verse as they are working on their pins.
- Snack Center:** Select a "humble" servant for each table. Ask them to hand out little sacks of popcorn to the others before taking one himself. Talk to the children about making choices that serve other people and not just yourself.
- ④ **"Choose the Best Chairs" Game:** Divide the children into groups of four children per team. At the other end of the room, place five chairs with one designated as the special chair. At the signal, the children run to the other end of the room, sit on a plain chair and come back. Each team gets to participate. You could time them for competition. Talk about being humble and not taking the best seat but leaving it for the host to decide.

Songs:

- Jesus Invites Us to the Feast** (Tune: "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho")
Jesus invites us to the feast, to the feast, to the feast.
Jesus invites us to the feast.

Will you choose to come?

The host invites them to the feast, to the feast, to the feast.
The host invites them to the feast
But they say they can't come.

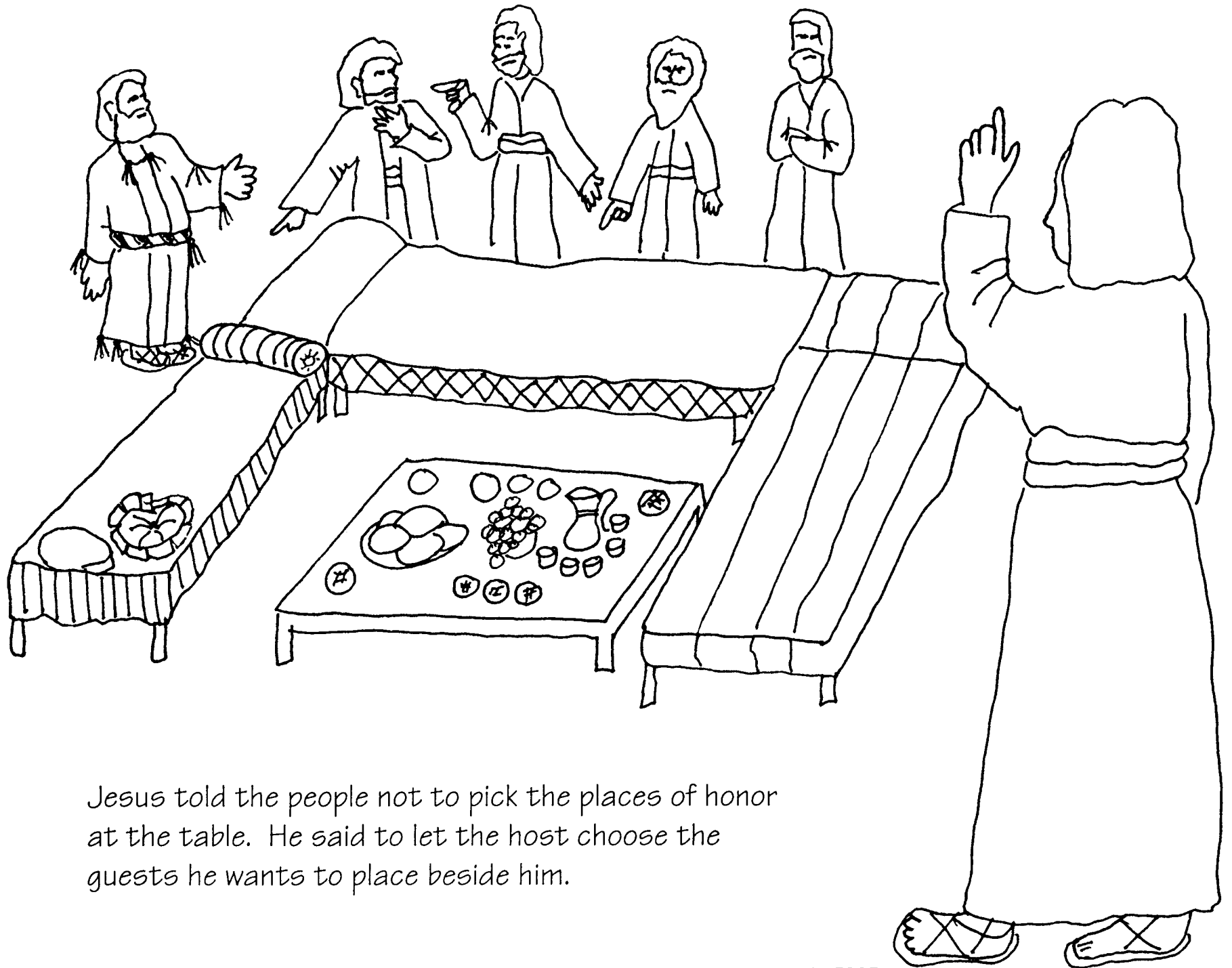
So he went out to the streets, to the streets, to the streets.
So he went out to the streets
And he found those who would come.

Jesus invites us to the feast, to the feast, to the feast.
Jesus invites us the to feast
And I want to come!



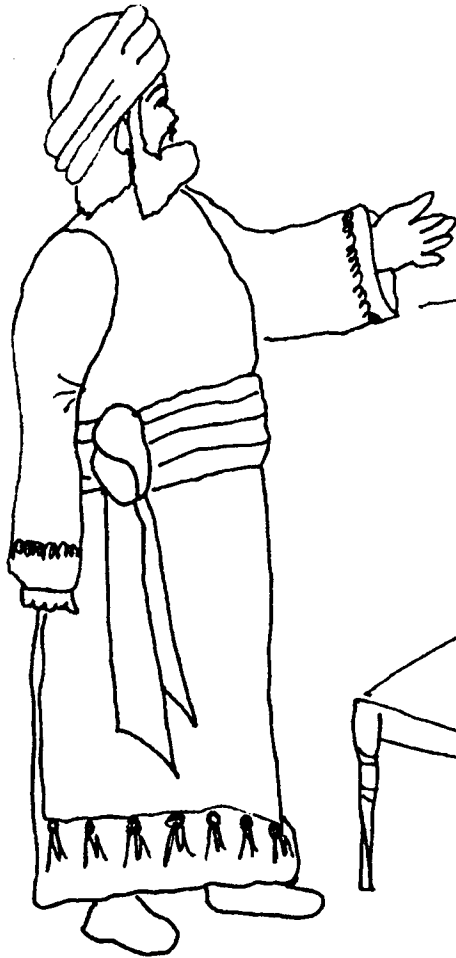
Took:

- Bible Adventure Review:** Using “happy face-sad face” puppets, review the Bible Adventure briefly and let the children tell you whether each statement would make Jesus happy or sad.
- “Let the Host Decide” Center:** Ask the children to go out of the room for a moment. While the children are out in the hall, wondering what is happening inside, a teacher is placing one M&M at each child’s place at each table, except for one place. At that seat she is placing five M&M’s. The teacher out in the hall will tell the children to take a place at a table but not to touch anything until they are told. See if there is a small riot among children trying to get the best seat. Before anyone can touch the candy, talk about why you chose the seat you did. (By the way, if anyone touches the candy until the teachers allows it, that child gets no candy at all.) As the children eat their candy, talk about the Pharisees who wanted the best seats at the banquet table. Jesus said to let the host decide who would have the seat closest to him. The host at each children’s table may choose who will sit at the 5 M&M place. It is fair. The host decides and the children eat their one piece of candy with thankful hearts.
- Get Ready for the Banquet: (BLUK13ECGF5)** If you have invited parents to your “banquet,” get the tables ready for the parents to arrive. Let the children put out their decorated place mats. You may want to get out your Luke Review Circles and remind the children what they have learned so far in the book of Luke. The parents will enjoy hearing some of the highlights.
- Kingdom Banquet Invitation Center: (BLUK13ECGF6)** Let the children put a Jesus sticker in the center of the table on the GF6 invitation to God’s kingdom banquet. Talk about how Jesus invites us to His kingdom banquet. Have the children take turns saying, “Yes!” with great enthusiasm when you ask them if they want to come to Jesus’ kingdom banquet.



Jesus told the people not to pick the places of honor at the table. He said to let the host choose the guests he wants to place beside him.

The host said, "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys. Fill the house with people who will come."

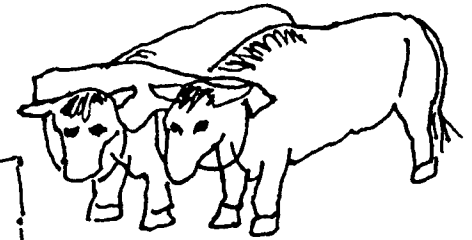


1. I need to look at my new field.



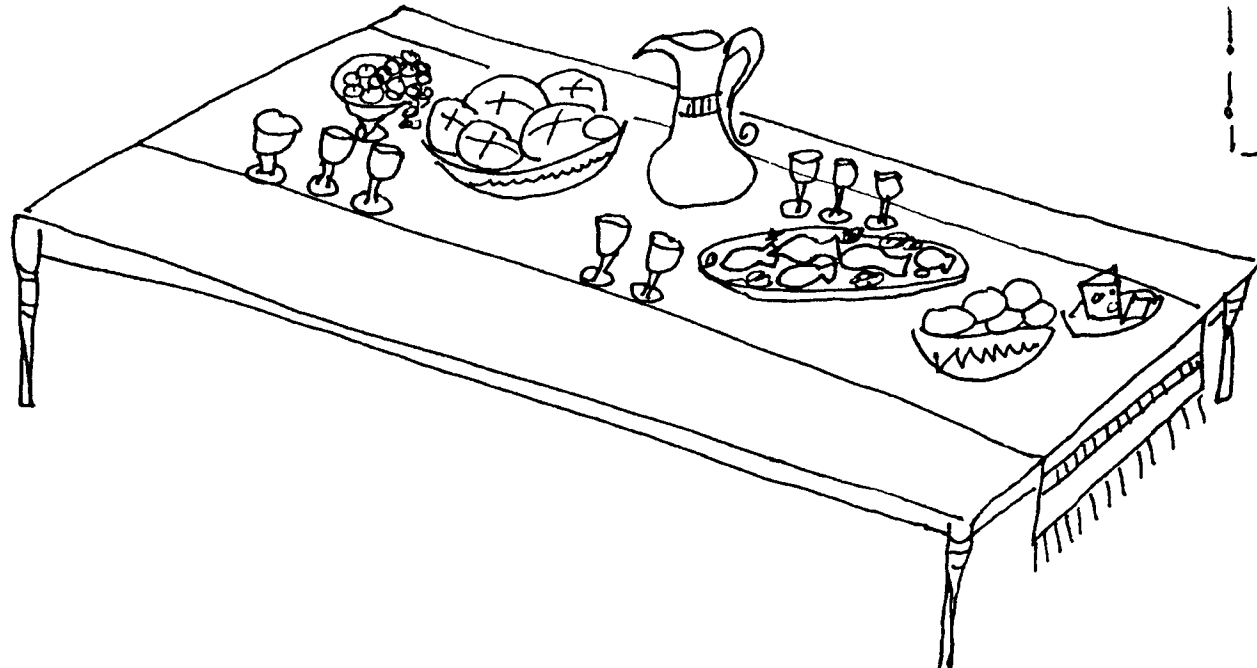
Excuses given by those receiving invitations for not attending the banquet.

2. I need to look at my new oxen.

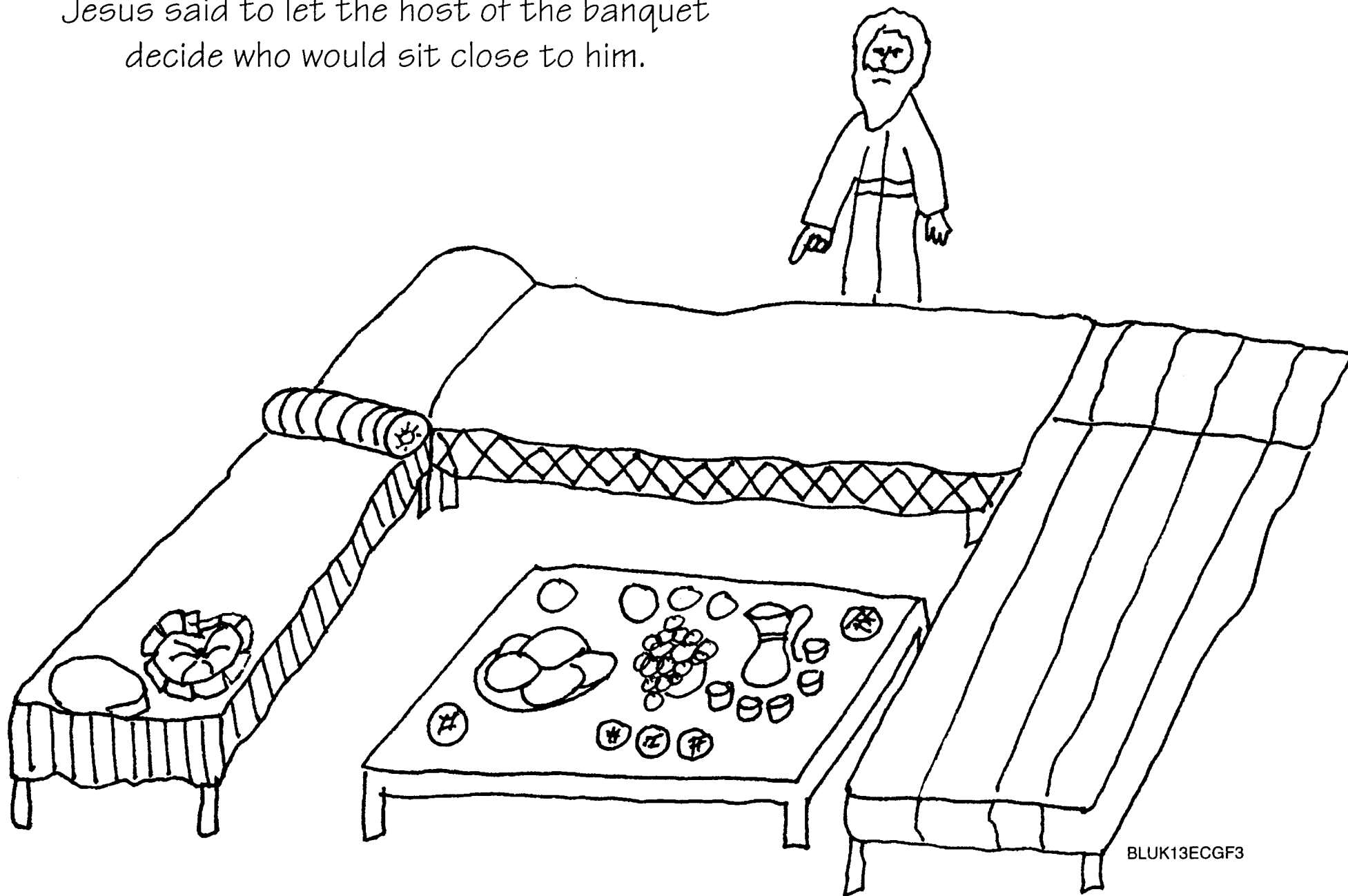


3.

I can't leave my new wife.



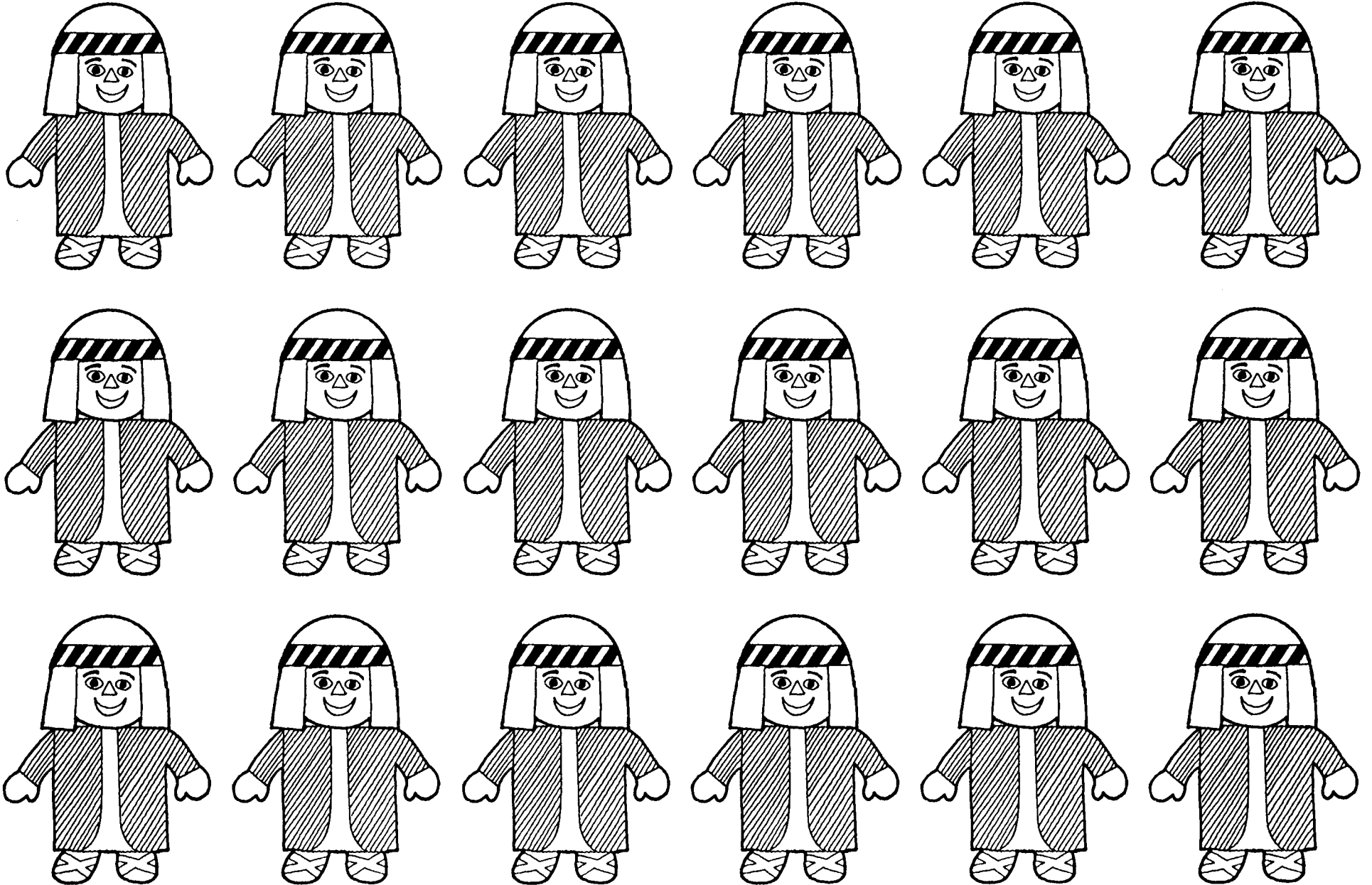
Jesus said to let the host of the banquet decide who would sit close to him.



BLUK13ECGF3

In Jesus' day, the most important people at a banquet sat closest to the host. Talk about which places at this banquet table would be the choice seats if the host is in the center. Glue GF4 men on the couches around the host.

Best Seat Look Center People



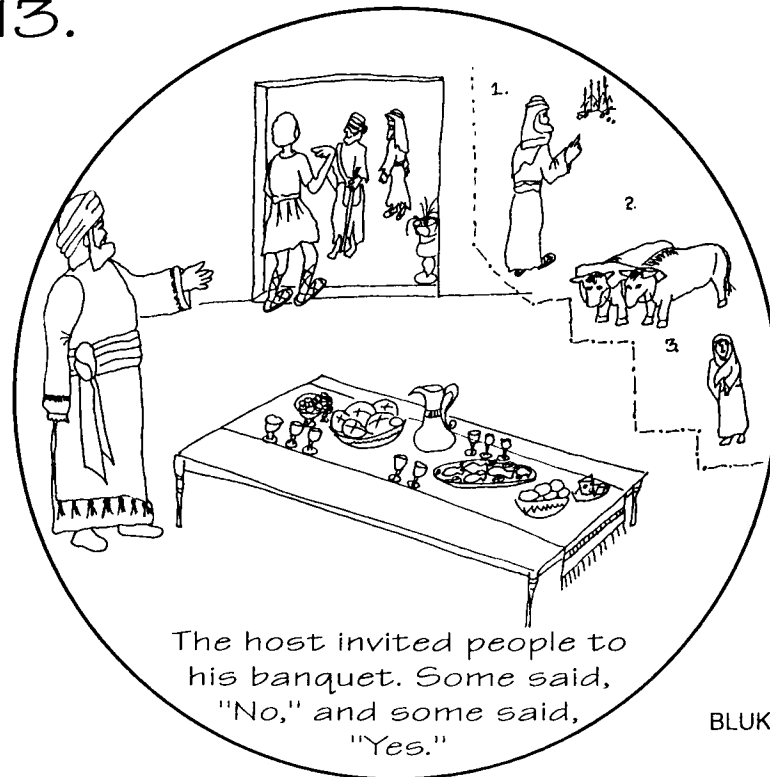
STORY
CIRCLES
FOR LUKE
LESSON #13.



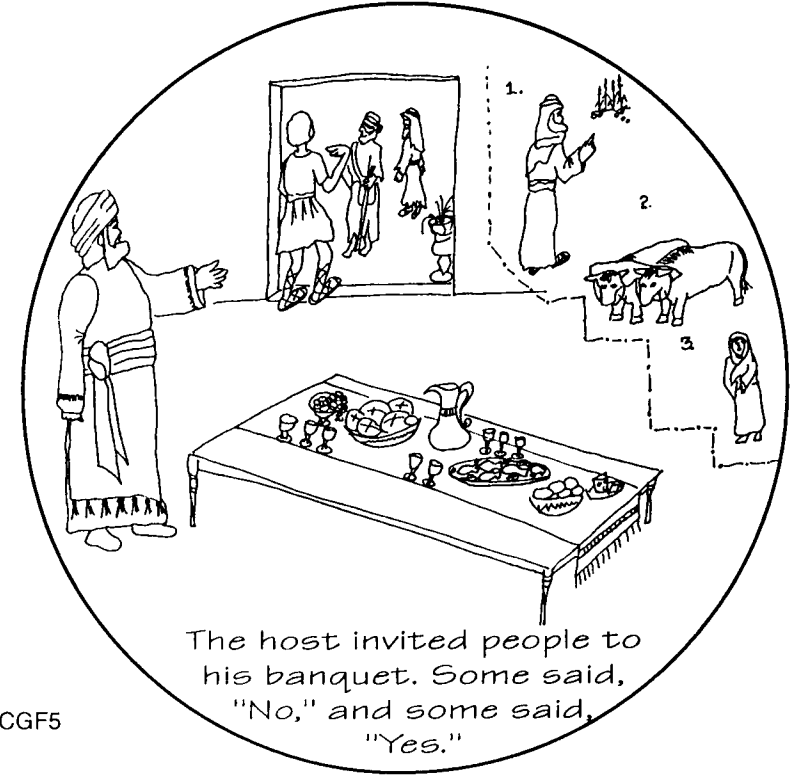
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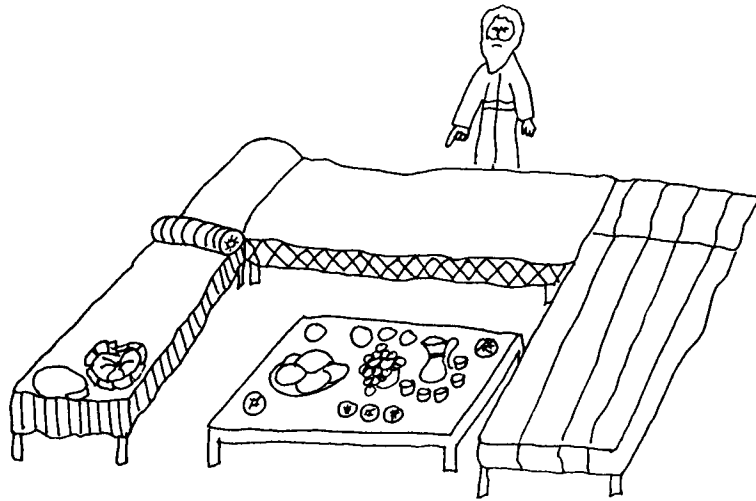
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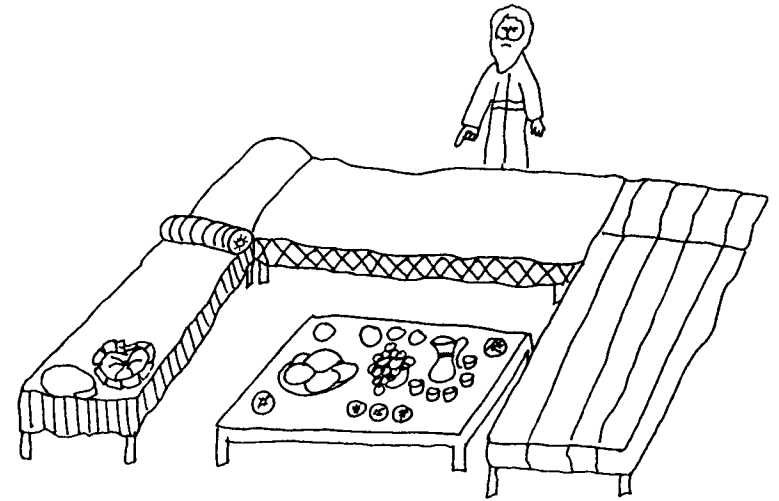
The host invited people to
his banquet. Some said,
"No," and some said,
"Yes."



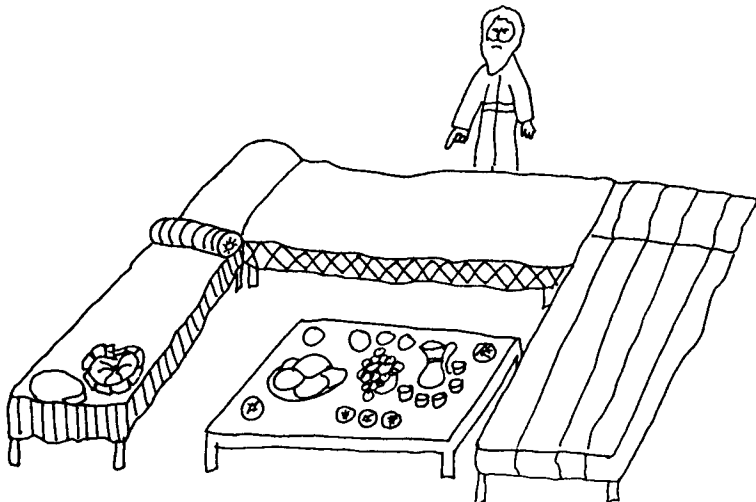
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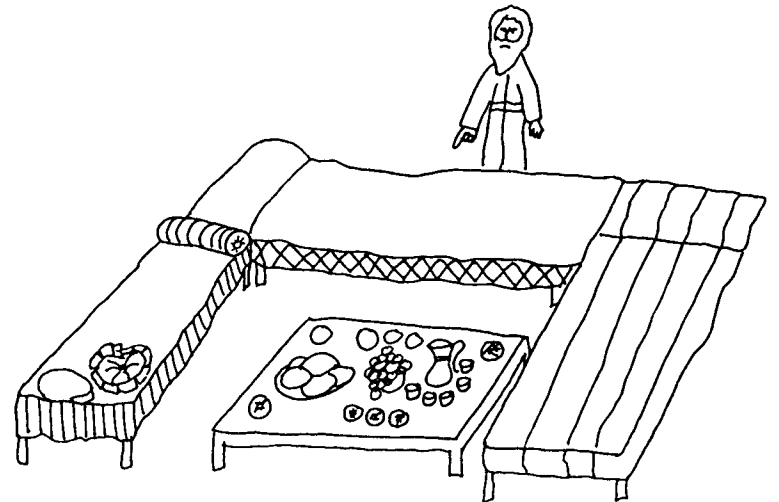
Jesus invites people to His kingdom banquet.
Do you want to be close to Jesus?



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