Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María

Florida Center for Peace

Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A – XXVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25, 6-10; Psalm 22; Philippians 4, 12-14. 19-20; Mathew 22, 1-14 o 22, 1-10

Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find. 'The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled withguests.".

Reflection



Jesus directs another parable (a story with a moral) to the high priests and elders of the people of God. They guided the people with laws but did not have God in their hearts. **Who did the king and his son represent?** God and Jesus. **What did the wedding banquet represent?** The banquet of Heaven that God prepares for those who love and follow His son, Jesus. We celebrate God's banquet with Jesus in the Eucharist during mass, and after this life, in Heaven. **Who do the servants represents?** God's messengers, the prophets. **Who do the first guests invited represent?** The high priests and elders of God's people and the Jewish people who rejected Jesus. **How did the first invited guests react?** Some ignored the invitation, and some insulted and even killed the king's servants. In the same way the Jewish leaders did not listen to John the Baptist, God's prophet,who was asking for repentance and baptism in water to prepare the way for the Messiah; nor did they recognize Jesus as the Messiah. **Do we sometimes make excuses to not participate in the Sunday banquet of the mass? How does God feel?** Share. **How does the King respond when they kill his servants?** He kills the men that killed his servants and his son and he sends his servants to invite everyone they meet on the path, good and bad, thus filling the wedding banquet. **Who do the last guests represent?** Anyone who accepts Jesus' invitation and follows Him. The invitation is no longer limited to the Jewish people. Jesus is letting them know that they rejected God's invitation to love and follow His Son so they will not enter the banquet of Heaven.

Activity

On the following pages, choose an activity to talk about the message of the Gospel.

Prayer

Jesus, enter my heart and help me to always say yes to you. I pray for the conversion of all souls so everyone can partake of the banquet in Heaven. Amen

Song: The E-U-C-H-A-R-I-S-T Song, Susan Collins, https://youtu.be/_GEqnKMN1zE?si=-Zt-bej5i5dGMqD0 (3-7 yrs.)
Come to the Banquet, Fay White, https://youtu.be/czRLWLOoqj8?si=HCwN2bqBxBw6eDLN (8+ yrs.)

PPT: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SlJGfPz8jIy3wKy4qSe0Z2OC-S8eo60r/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true

Craft: Invitation to Jesus' Great Banquet

Materials:


Letter-size sheet

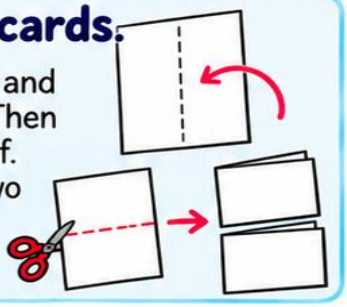

Scissors


Glue


Colored pencils or crayons

1 Prepare the cards.

Take a letter-size sheet and fold it vertically in half. Then cut it horizontally in half. This way you will get two cards from one sheet of paper.



2 Prepare the cover.

On the outside of the card, glue the picture that says:



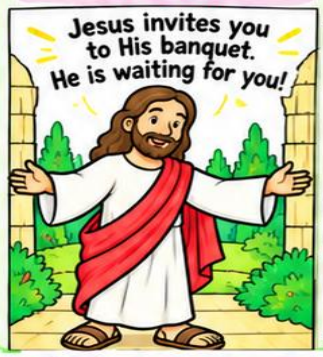
Children can color and decorate their invitation.

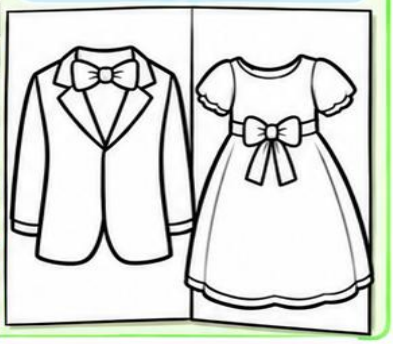
3 Open the card.

When you open it, you will have two spaces:

Left side: glue the picture of Jesus.

Right side: glue the suit or the dress.





4 Prepare your heart.

Inside the suit or dress, write different ways you can prepare your heart to attend the Banquet with Jesus.



Some ideas:

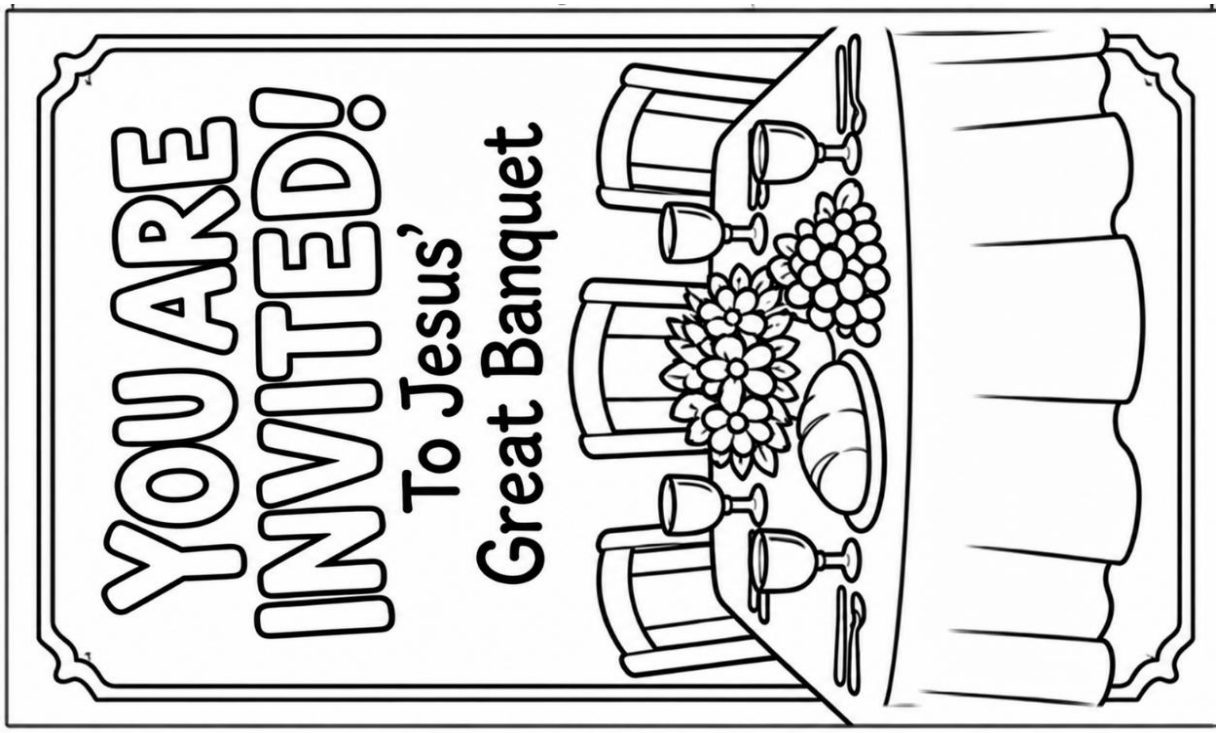
- Prayer
- Love my parents
- Obey
- Forgive
- Help others
- Share
- Do good
- Tell the truth
- Listen to Jesus
- Participate in Mass

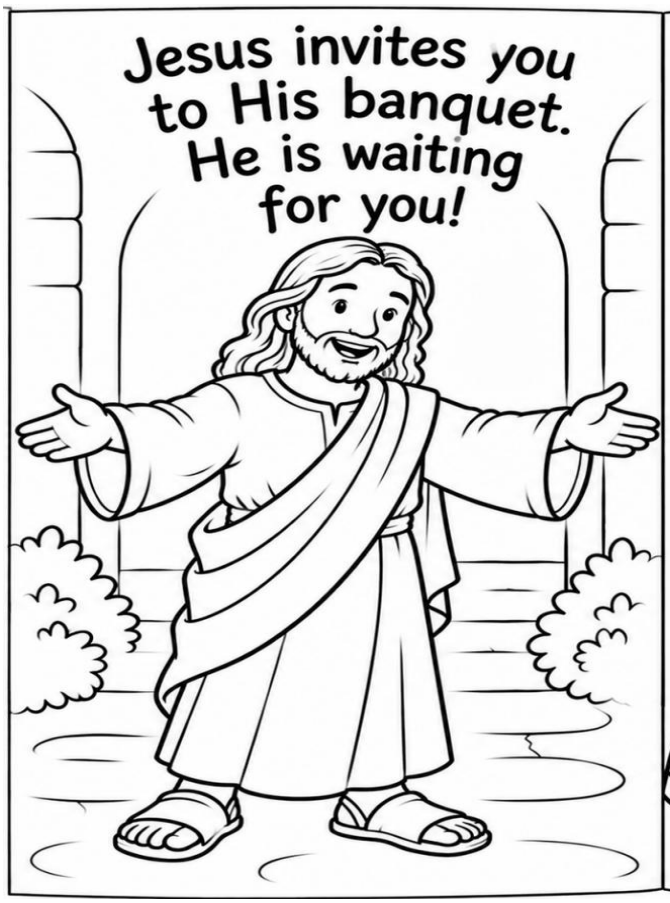
5 Done!

Color and decorate your card. That way you will have your own invitation to Jesus' Great Banquet.



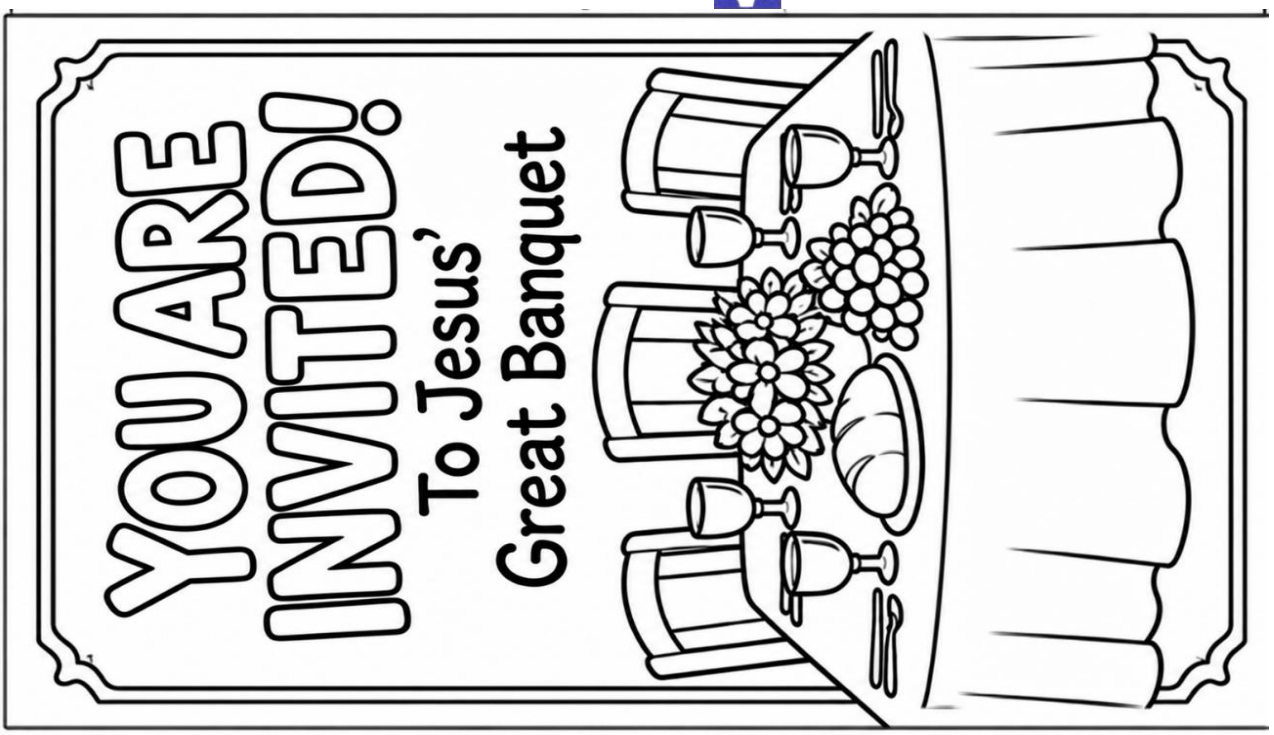
GIRL'S CARD


YOU ARE INVITED!
To Jesus' Great Banquet


Jesus invites you to His banquet. He is waiting for you!


How can I prepare my heart for Jesus?

BOY'S CARD

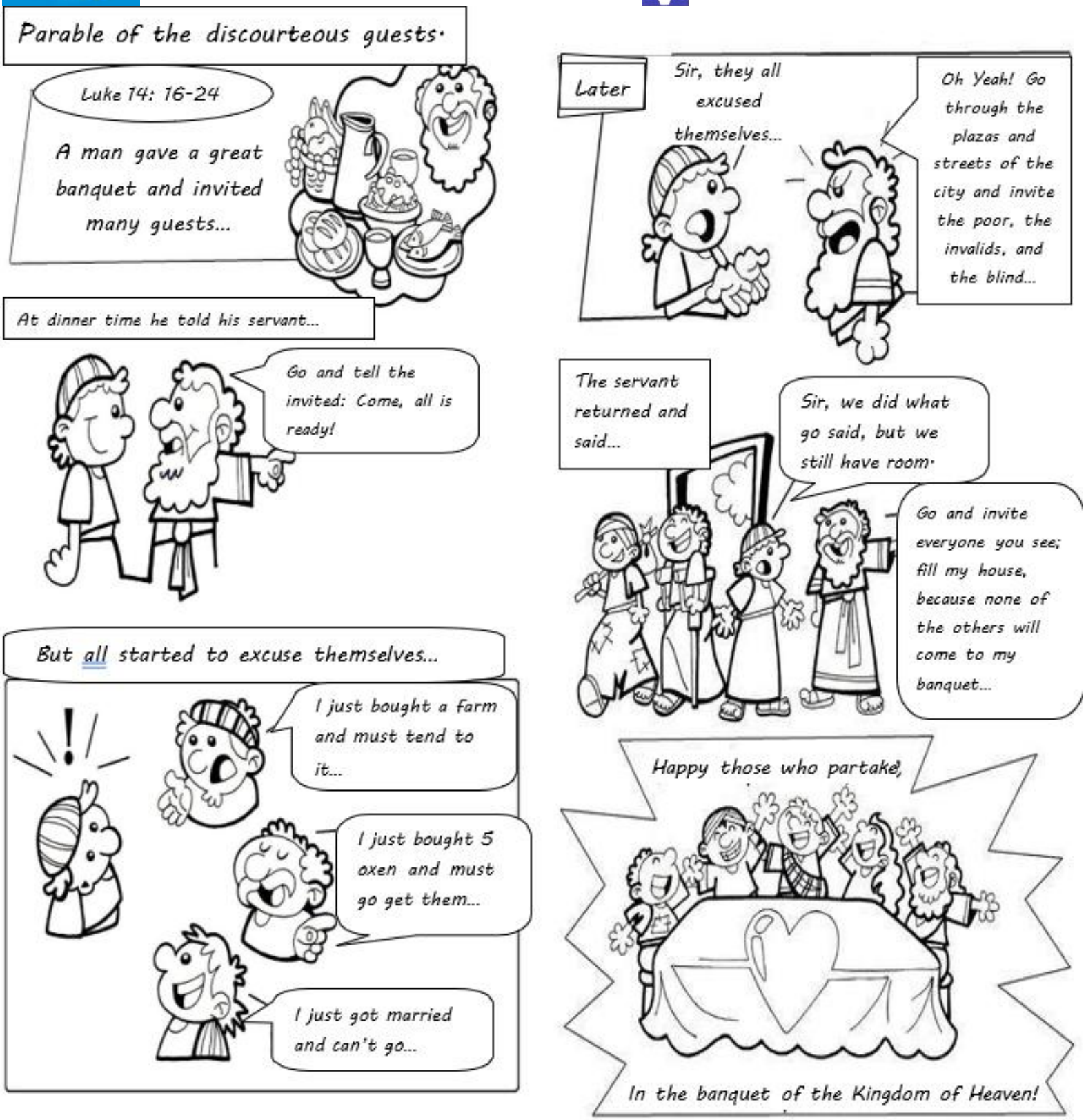




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Happy the person who takes part in the Banquet of the Mass!

Happy the person that takes part



In the Banquet of the Kingdom of Heaven!

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