

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 16: Party Like Jesus (from Luke 14:1-14)

To the Teacher:

This week's lesson has several illustrations that will not be immediately recognizable to the kids; they may not be very recognizable to you and I either! This is because they come from a time and culture that is much different than ours. However, the principles that they convey are the very same issues that we and our children are facing today. Understanding these stories will help point our kids to life in God's Kingdom. Pray this week that God will work through you to reveal Kingdom values to the kids.

- **Big Idea:** The rules that Jesus gives us for God's Kingdom are often much different than the rules that the world follows.
- **Question:** What is the best party that you have ever gone to and why was it the best?
- **Starter:** 'Musical Chairs'
Play a game of musical chairs. Afterwards, explain to the kids that today's story has adults in it who were competing with each other to sit in the best seat.
OR
Play this [video](#) which has an excerpt from the story.
- **Story:** from Luke 14:1-14
[READ]
One day Jesus was invited to have a meal at the house of a very important person, he was one of the religious leaders who were called Pharisees. Now the day that Jesus went to the home of the Pharisee was on the Sabbath. This was the day of the week when all of God's people were supposed to worship God by resting and they were not allowed to do any kind of work at all. The religious leaders in the home were watching Jesus to see if He would break any of the rules.

While Jesus was in the home a man stood before Him who had a disease that made his body swell. The disease made the man always feel thirsty even though he already had too much water in his body. Jesus faced the religious leaders and asked them if it was good to heal people on the Sabbath or not. The religious leaders did not answer Jesus' question. They did not think it was ok to do any kind of work on the Sabbath, including

healing people, but they knew that people would think poorly of them if they did not allow the man to be healed.

Jesus healed the man of his swelling and allowed him to return to his home. Then Jesus spoke to the religious leaders. He asked them if one of their children, or even one of their animals, fell into a hole on the Sabbath wouldn't they pull it back out. The religious leaders did not answer Jesus because they knew He was right.

This meal that Jesus was invited to was different than the kind of parties that we go to now. At these types of parties the person hosting it would only invite people that were as wealthy and important as they were. That way, whenever those people had parties they would have to invite the person who had invited them. At these parties there was also an order of seats that let everyone know how important you were compared to everyone else. Everyone at the party would try to sit in the most important seat they were able to so people would think well of them.

Now Jesus was watching all of the guests choosing seats that would give them the most honor and He told them a story. He told them that when they go to a party they should not try to sit in the seat with the most honor. Jesus asked them to imagine going to a party and sitting in the most honorable seat, and then someone more important arrives at the party. The host of the party would tell them they must give up their seat to the more important person and then they would be embarrassed because they would have to sit in the seat of least importance. Jesus told them to instead start in the seat of least importance, that way the host would see where they were sitting and would honor them by asking them in front of everybody to sit in a better seat. Jesus told them that people who think a lot of themselves will be humbled but those who humble themselves will be thought well of by God.

Then Jesus turned to the religious leader that was hosting the meal and told him: When you have a party, do not invite all of the important people that you know because they will invite you to their parties and then you will be repaid. Instead invite the poor and the needy, the people that are unable to invite you to parties of their own. If you do this you will be blessed by God. You will not be repaid by the poor and the needy but instead you will be repaid by God.

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: Jesus wanted to show the religious leaders that God meant for good to be done on the Sabbath. What example did he give them? *(Pulling a child or animal out of a hole.)*
- Ask: What was something that was different about the religious leaders party from parties that you have at your house?
- Ask: What did Jesus say could happen if you picked the most important seat at the party? *(Asked to move to a less important seat)*
- Ask: How did Jesus say to avoid being embarrassed by having to be asked to take the least important seat? *(Choose the least important seat first)*
- Ask: What does it mean to be humble?
- Ask: What did Jesus say would happen to people that humble themselves?
- Ask: What did Jesus say would happen when you care for people that cannot repay you?

• **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank you for the grace and mercy that you show us when we do not act like your people. Help us to see how to care for others and to live humbly before you.

• **Craft:** Use attached worksheets

• **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

- **EAT:** Encourage your family over the next week to share a meal with someone that you do not usually invite over like a neighbor that you do not know well.
- OR: Eat with someone at school that is not a part of your friend group or is not someone that you usually spend time with.

A Lesson in Humility

"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 14:7-14



M P V G E S M P E M D Q I F T
U C M L T G K D A Y P X Z T U
Z C B S L M O K F E A S T N M
G A E S X Z B N D L B P M U D
T U S P C L H O N O R L G A X
G Z S Z B R K V L A M E I G Y
C D E O I A A E L E A S T N M
B I A V N A H R A S Q Q K X D
J N T X V P W L C U V X S D Q
F N A Y I L P E X A L T T H W
Z E T C T J L Z V D R A B L T
R R B I E B Y P O O R W E S K
U I U V M M O S T F E R O P S
J D C U M P B X T F R I E N D
J F H H F R H U T M O B G M N

POOR
FRIEND
LAME

EXALT
SEAT
INVITE

FEAST
TABLE
GUESTS

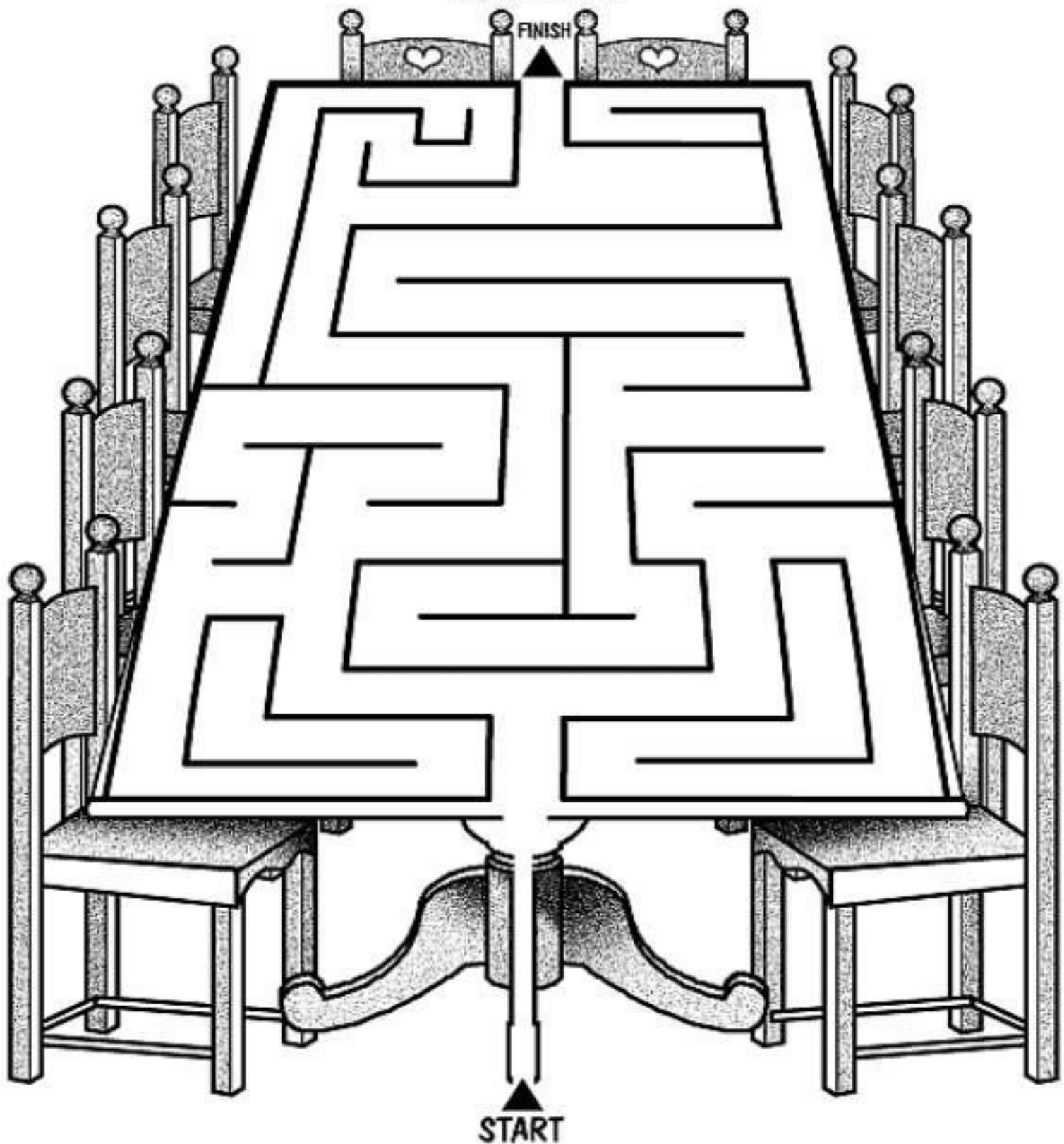
HONOR
HUMBLE
LEAST

DINNER
RICH
BLIND

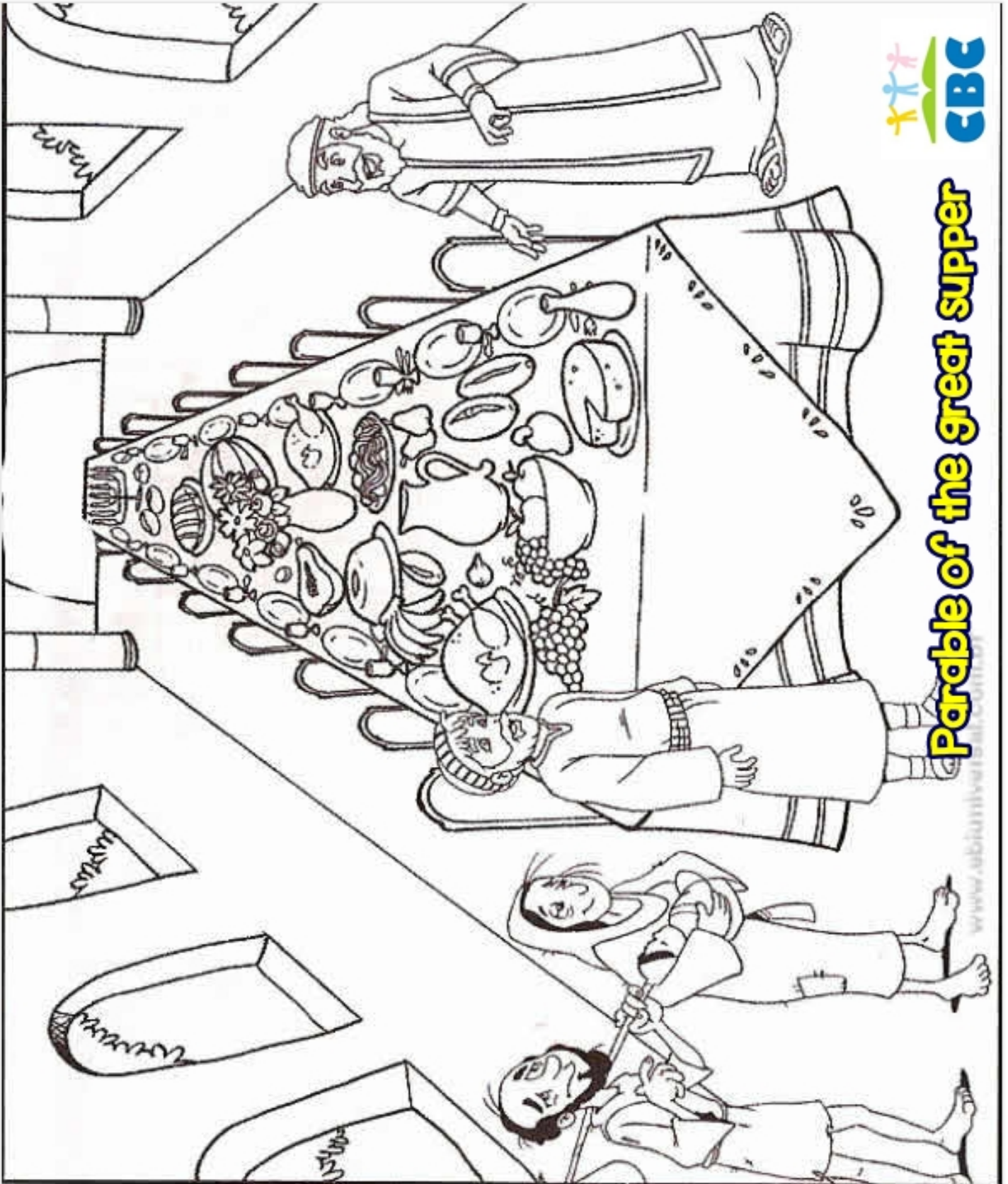
The Seat to Take

Move from the bottom of the table to the head. Then you can colour in the maze.

Luke 14:7-11



Jesus said that when you go to a party and you get to choose where you want to sit then you should not go and sit in the best or most important seat. Because if you sit in the best place and someone who is more important than you comes then you might have to shift places. But if you let others sit in the best seats then the host might notice and move you to an important seat while everyone is watching.



Parable of the great supper

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