

Eating Lunch With Jesus

FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson is designed to help the kids think about how Jesus has included everyone in his life with the Father. We can come up with excuses to not participate in Jesus' Kingdom but the Father doesn't exclude anyone.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Bring a puzzle of 25 pieces or less. Separate the pieces before class. When class starts, have the kids gather around a table and pass out the puzzle pieces evenly among the kids. Tell them to look at their pieces and ask - "What happens if we keep all our puzzle pieces to ourself?" (We only have part of the picture. It is not a complete.)

"What happens if we share the pieces and put them all together?" (We make something whole.)

Work together to put the puzzle pieces together to complete the puzzle.

Activity Lesson: We may all look a little different- different shapes and different colors like the puzzle pieces but instead of being separate, Jesus holds us all together as one. We are ALL included.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Luke 14:12-14. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

PRIMARY LESSON: Through Jesus the Father has included everyone in the Kingdom and when we have parties and meals that include everyone we are living like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Act out the scripture. Assign each child a different role as noted below. (For more kids, have several kids play the same role. For less kids, play only some of the roles or have the kids be more than one person.)

- Keeper of the House - Give them an apron to wear.
- Lame - Wrap their leg in a bandage or have them use crutches.
- Cripple - Wrap their arm in a sling.

- Blind - Blindfold them.
- Poor - Give them one penny.
- Rich person - Let them wear a robe/crown and give them several coins or dollars.

Have each person at a time come up to the "door" of the house and ask to come in for some food. The keeper of the house leads them to a table. The Lame, Cripple, Blind and Poor are allowed to sit at the same table. The owner gives them each one cracker (Wheat Thin, Triscuit, etc) to eat. The Rich person is lead to a different table and is given a "feast" (chocolate, candy, etc). Ask the children -

"How does it feel to be separated and treated differently from the rich person?" (Made me feel sad, not included).

"Did Jesus come to include ALL people or just some people?" (Everyone)

Have the Keeper of the House invite the Lame, Cripple, Blind and Poor to the Rich persons table. Give them all the same food the Rich person was eating.

Activity Lesson: Jesus has come so that we will ALL be included.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for including us all in your life through Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for not leaving anyone out of the Kingdom. Holy Spirit, please help us to reach out to other people and include them in our lives the way we have all been included in your life with the Father and the Son. In Jesus' name, Amen.