

Title: You are Invited

Object: Cookies or Cup Cakes

Scripture: “Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find *there*, invite to the wedding feast. Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.” (Matthew 22:9-10)

-S- How many of you have ever given a party? We have all given a party at some time. Perhaps it was a birthday party, or a slumber party. Maybe you had a picnic or a costume party. No matter what kind of party you gave, it was a lot of work to get ready for the party. First, you have to decide what kind of a party you are going to have. Then you have to go out and buy the decorations or make them yourself. You have to plan what games you are going to play. Next you have to decide what you are going to serve and go to the store to buy refreshments and bake goodies. **-S-** After you have made all the plans, you make a list of who you are going to invite and send out the invitations.

Have you ever planned a party and sent out the invitations, but no one showed up? Oh, I hope not! If that happened, how do you think it would make you feel? Would you be angry? Would your feelings be hurt? What do you think you might do?

Jesus once told about a king who threw a party, but none of the people he invited showed up for his party. In Jesus' story, the king was going to have a party for his Son who was getting married. **-S-** Since he was a king, and this was his only son,

you can imagine that it was going to be quite a celebration and it was a tremendous honor to be invited!

All of the plans had been made, the food was prepared and the invitations had been sent. **-S-** The day of the celebration came, but no one showed up! The king sent his servants to see where the people were and why they had not come to his celebration. The people all began to make excuses about how busy they were.

-S- The king was very upset, so he told his servants to go out into the streets and invite everyone they saw to come to his son's wedding celebration. They did exactly what the king told them to do and the Bible tells us that the **-S-** wedding hall was filled with guests.

In this story, the King presents God and, of course, Jesus is His Son. **-S-** God is going to have a great celebration for His Son in Heaven and we have all been invited. I can't imagine why, but some people will turn down God's invitation. You've been invited -- I hope you will accept God's invitation. I hope you will believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You can ask your dad and mom about what it means to believe in Jesus.

Dear Father, thank You for inviting us to join You in your heavenly celebration. If there are any here today who have not accepted Your invitation, we pray that today will be the day. Come to Jesus and accept Him as your Lord and Savior and be saved. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.