

Short Talk

(SHT067)

The Invitation

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



SHORT TALK: “THE INVITATION”

Aim of Short talk: To show that each one of us has been invited to be part of God's Kingdom and to encourage people to respond.

Use of Short talk: This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.

Main themes: Invitation, Kingdom of God

Biblical references: Matthew 22:1-14, Revelation 19:7b

Lectionary: Year A – Proper 23, CW Trinity 18

Props: You will need a table at the front of the church. Cover it in a white cloth and lay out some place settings as if for a wedding. Make it as beautiful as possible and include napkins, balloons, candles etc and a bowl of “Celebrations” chocolates. (Have a few wine gums available for children allergic to chocolate/nuts.) You also need a piece of A5 card to act as an invitation.

How many of you have been invited to a wedding?

- It's exciting isn't it when you get an invitation as weddings are usually very happy events.
- After the wedding ceremony there is normally a feast afterwards, called a wedding breakfast with special food.

As you can see today we have a table laid out ready for a wedding breakfast.

- It looks like it is going to be a very special wedding doesn't it?
- There are even some Celebrations chocolates.
- Would anyone like to come and taste these chocolates just to test that they are alright?
(Allow children to take a chocolate and eat it and then keep them at the front as you talk with them)

I wonder who is getting married. I wonder who this feast is for.

- It must be for someone very special.....or someone very important.
- I wonder who has been invited to this wedding.....what an honour that would be.

Imagine for a moment that this wedding feast is for someone really really famous.....like a prince or a pop-star.....

- Who could that be? (Receive responses)

So I wonder what you would do if you were sent an invitation to **this** wedding.

If I told you that you that there is an invitation with your name on to come to this wedding next weekend, how would you reply?

- How many of you would reply: “*I am far too **busy** with my school work or my college work, or my garden work or my other work to go to your wedding*”? (Receive responses)

You wouldn't would you?

- Even if you had to work late into the night to get your work done, you would make the time to go to the wedding wouldn't you, because it is an honour to have been invited.

How many of you would reply: *"Actually there are **other things** that I would rather do that weekend so I won't be coming to your wedding"*? (Receive responses)

- You wouldn't would you?
- Why would you want to miss out on all the joy and fun that will be had on that day?

Most of us would reply and say, *"Thank you very much for inviting us. We would love to come to your wedding,"* wouldn't we?

As wonderful as it would be to get an invitation to the wedding of a famous person, each one of us has been sent an even more wonderful invitation.

- It has our name on it and it comes from Father God. (Pull out the A5 card invitation)

Listen to what the invitation says:

"N (list some names...and then ask people to think of their own name)

You are invited to come into my kingdom. I want you to become a member of my family and to know my love; both now while you walk on earth, and for all eternity.

I have made it possible for you to come into my kingdom by sending Jesus to deal with your sins, which He did when He died on the cross for you and then rose again three days later.

One day there will be a big celebration, a bit like a wedding feast when all of my children will be together with Jesus. RSVP – Father God"

What a wonderful invitation.

- Does anyone know what RSVP means?
- It means: "Please reply"

So how will you reply to this invitation?

- Will you say: *"I am far too **busy** with my school work or my college work, or my garden work or my other work to come into God's kingdom?"*
- If you say that, perhaps you are forgetting what an honour it is to be invited.

Will you say: *"Actually there are **other things** that I would rather do in life than come into God's kingdom?"*

- If you say that, perhaps you don't realise all that you will miss out on both now and all eternity.

Or will you say: *"Yes I would love to come into your Kingdom?"*

It is your choice how you will reply to Father God's invitation.

- Can I encourage you not to leave it too long?

(If you want to lead people into relationship with God you might use the following)

Some of you may want to say "yes" to Father God's invitation today.
If that is you, please join in with me as we pray together.

**Father God thank you for inviting us into Your kingdom.
Thank you for sending Jesus to pay for our sins when He died on the cross.
Please forgive us for rejecting You and living self-centred lives.
We turn now to Jesus and choose to put our trust in Him.
Help us to walk with You in Your kingdom from this day on.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**