

Heavenly Banquet

Description: a team game to play before snack or meal time

Aim: illustrate need for Bible translation teams

Audience: Primary through high school, 8 or more participants

Time: 10-15 min.

Equipment: 2 pencils, 2 scissors, 2 pieces of paper, plus a 'banquet table' of very kid-desirable foods

Scriptures to Study:
Romans 10:8-15,
Revelation 5:9 and
7:9,10

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Leader's Instructions:

Pre-class Preparations:

1. Write the following instructions on a card. Team One: "When I say 'Go,' work together. Draw a large picture of a key and cut it out of this paper. The first team to bring me their key wins!"
2. Write the following instructions on a second card. Team Two: "When I say, 'Go,' work together. It won't be easy, but do your best to figure out how to win the banquet table! The first team to bring me the right answer wins."
3. Pile a table high with mouth-watering treats like grapes, plums, strawberries, kiwi, watermelon and cherries. Or, if you dare, display tempting cookies, muffins, ice cream and potato chips. If it is near meal time, how about a pizza buffet? Decide what seems most heavenly to your kids, and okay with parents.

Class time:

1. Make sure everyone gets to admire the table from a short distance.
2. Divide the children into three groups: *Team One*, *Team Two*, and the *Cheering Section*.
3. Be sure the two teams are separated as much as possible. Distribute pencils, scissors and paper to Team One and Team Two. Positioning the cheering section to be able to watch all that goes on.
4. Explain that the winning team and the cheering section will get to enjoy the goodies on the table.
5. Quietly give the instruction cards to the proper teams, and instruct both teams to be careful not to let the other team see their instructions. Tell them not to begin until you say, "Go."
6. Then instruct the Cheering Section to clap, yell and generally encourage whichever team seems to have the most trouble.
7. Start the contest by saying, "Go!"
8. At the end of the contest, reveal the differing instructions by having someone from each team read their instructions.

Discussion and Application:

1. **Ask the children**, “What was unfair about this contest?”

Read Revelation 19:9. Explain, “In real life some people, like Team One, have the instructions about how to get to the great banquet table in heaven. They have the key! Others, like Team Two, do not! They haven’t heard in their own language that Jesus died for their sins. They will miss out on the banquet unless someone tells them in a way that they can understand.”

2. **Ask**, “Where do people find this information?” (*in the Bible*). **Ask them for specific verses to explain salvation. (e.g. John 3:16)** “But,” **tell them**, “millions and millions of people do not have these instructions in a language they can understand. Why? They don’t have the Bible in a language they can read. God wants us to tell everyone how to get to His great banquet table in heaven. How can you help? Ask God if you should pray, give or go so that others can have a Bible too!” **Pray now, thanking God that we have the Bible in our language, which explains how to know God personally through Jesus Christ. Ask Him to reveal to each child how they can help make it possible for more people to enjoy that same privilege.**

3. **Ask**, “Is there anyone on Team One who will help these poor, drooling members of Team Two? Would you share your key? Is there enough to share? Is it the right thing to do?” **One child should volunteer to take the key and the instructions to Team Two. Make the connection between that act and what God is doing around the world today through His servants.**

4. Once Team Two has followed the directions, *everyone* can sit down to the feast!

Closing Song: *His Banner Over Me Is Love* (He feeds me at His banqueting table . . .)

Notes: