

Yr 2 Great Banquet, Lesson Luke 14: 16-24

Opening Prayer: Our Father, Отче Наш. *See Prayer Posters.* Find an audio version that the children can sing with [here](#).

Gospel: [Luke 14:16-24](#) - Click to follow link

Read the story of the Great Feast or [listen to it here](#): or watch a [video here](#). You can start at 1:15.

Lesson: God invites us, and we say “yes”

Who do you think the man having the banquet represents? God the Father. Like the man in the story God wants his house to be full. Can you think of a place we call the “House of God”? Church! God invites us to take part in the Great Banquet every Sunday at Divine Liturgy. What do we receive at this Great Banquet? The Eucharist (communion, body and blood of Christ).

Who did the man in the story invite? Discuss. Everyone! Not just special people. Do you think God invites only certain special people? No! God wants everyone to join in. All people in the world are His beloved children.

Did the man force people to come? No, he sent his servant to ask other people. Like this man God will not force people to come to His house. God is love and God loves all people. *Discuss how love can not be forced.* Being friends with someone or being married is about each of you wanting to be together. What if your friend forced you to be with them all the time and to do whatever they wanted, that wouldn't be friendship or love would it?

Although we are not forced, it is important for us, each week to accept God's invitation and say “yes” to God by coming to share in the banquet in the Divine Liturgy. God asks us not to be lazy or to think of a whole bunch of excuses like the people in the story to avoid coming to His banquet! Can you think of some excuses people make for not going to church?

Remember the servants that the man sent out to invite people? Who do you think they represent? Us! The people who love and serve God. We are the servants who get to tell everyone that they are invited to God's House! We an important job we have!

Craft: Invitation to Church. Colour, fold and invite someone to church next Sunday.

In Church: Look for the icon of the Mystical Supper. Thank God for the chance to take part in such a special banquet!