

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY IN THE CHURCH

LESSON 2 THE PARTY



Bible Story	Message that will be taught *
Luke 14:7-14 – Jesus encourages us to invite all kinds of people to our parties	We should be friendly towards all children

* The goal of a Bible lesson is to teach the children a specific Biblical message. Children learn through repetition, and therefore this message should be repeated throughout the lesson.

TEACHING AIDS

Games that you know children like to play at their parties.

Pictures from a children's Bible story book or the internet on a party in Biblical times.

INTRODUCTION

Who likes a party? Let us pretend that we are going to have a party! What would you like to do at the party that is fun? What games do you like to play at a party? (*You can show the children some games as an example*). Who would you like to invite to your party?

Today, I am going to tell you about one day when Jesus was invited to a party.

STORY

There once was this very important person. He held a party and only invited important people. Everybody wanted to go to his party because they like to feel important.

It is very nice if people notice us and think that we are great, isn't it?

In those days, the most important people sat at the top of the table. Everybody wanted to sit there so that people would think that they are more important than

the rest. Jesus was also at the party. He was watching all the people who rushed so that they could get to the important seats first. Then Jesus said to the people that they should not think that they are more important than other people are.

He also turned to the person who invited Him to the party and told him that, when you have a party, you should not invite only the rich and important people to your party. Yes, it is nice if they can invite you back to their parties.

However, you should also invite people who might find it difficult to invite you back. People who are lonely and who do not have many friends¹. You should be friendly towards all children.

Do not only make friends with those children that everybody wants to be friends with. Yes, it is okay to be their friend. But be on the lookout for people who are lonely and who find it difficult to be part of your group of friends – and try to be their friend as well.

Sometimes, children with a disability can find it difficult to take part in our games. But we should be friendly towards all children and think about ways we can include them, so that they don't feel left out.

ACTIVITIES

- Play games to show children that it can be difficult for children with disabilities to take part in the games that they sometimes play:
 - Play ten-pin-bowling blind-folded
 - 10 plastic bottles
 - A soft ball
 - A scarf to use as a blindfold
 - Play "Simon says" in a soft voice and put cotton wool in the children's ears
 - Cotton wool balls
 - Play catch with one hand tied behind their backs
 - A light, soft ball
- Brainstorm ideas on games to play where children with disabilities can take part in.

Author: Dr Annemarie Oberholzer, registered nurse focussing on the spiritual support of children in health care. She also holds a Diploma in Children's Ministry from the Petra Institute.

¹ The Bible specifically mentions people with disabilities. However, in biblical times, people with disabilities couldn't work and were therefore poor, had to beg for a living and were socially the outcasts. Be careful not to label a child with a disability. Maybe the child with a disability in your midst is socially well adjusted and has many friends. If not, use your own discretion on how to discuss this topic with the children to encourage them to include the child with disabilities in their activities.