

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, Rev 5:9 and 7:9,10

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Leader's Instructions:

Pre-class Preparations:

1. Write the following instructions on a card: *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: *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 is most heavenly to your kids, and OK with parents.

Class time:

1. Make sure everyone gets to admire the table from a short distance.
2. Divide into three groups: *Team 1, Team 2, and Cheering Section.*
3. Distribute pencils, scissors and paper between Team 1 and Team 2, positioning the Cheering Section to watch all that goes on.
4. Explain that the winning Team and the Cheering Section get the goodies on the table.
5. Quietly give the card with these instructions to Team 1 **only** and instruct them to not let the other team see this note: *"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!"*
6. Quietly give the card with these instructions to Team 2 **only** and instruct them to not let the other team see this note: *"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."*
7. Tell the Cheering Section to clap, yell and generally

encourage whichever team seems to have the most trouble.

8. Start the contest!
9. At the end of the contest, reveal your differing instructions.

Discussion and Application:

1. Ask the children, “What was unfair about this contest?” Look at Revelation 19:9. Explain, “In real life some people, like Team 1, have the instructions about how to get to the great banquet table in heaven. They have the key! Others, like Team 2, 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.

3. Ask, “Is there anyone on Team 1 who will help these poor, drooling people on Team 2? 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 or the instructions to Team 2. Make the connection between that act and what God is doing around the world today through His servants.

4. Now, everyone sits down to a feast!

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

Notes: