

Far Beyond the Stars

The night air was cool, so Karen and Laura were happy to snuggle into their sleeping bags. The first day of their Sunday school camping trip had been fun. Everyone was tired but still excited about sleeping out-of-doors.

“Just look at the stars!” exclaimed Laura. “I didn’t know there were so many, the sky is filled with them! Do you think there really is room for Heaven up there?”

“Oh, yes, there is plenty of room,” said Karen.

Alice, their Sunday school teacher, said, “Heaven is far beyond the stars that we see, Laura. You have not been

coming to Sunday school for very long, but one thing Jesus wants you to know is that there really is a Heaven.”

“The Bible tells us Heaven is a wonderful place,” said Karen. “There is no darkness there, and the light will be even more beautiful than those stars,” she said, pointing toward the sky. “And can you imagine golden streets that you can see through? Everything will be so good—no crying or sadness. And best of all, Jesus will be there!”

“Will everybody get to live there?” asked Laura.

“Only those who love Jesus and have

had their sins forgiven,” said Alice.

“What about the people who don’t love Jesus?” asked Laura. “Where will they live?”

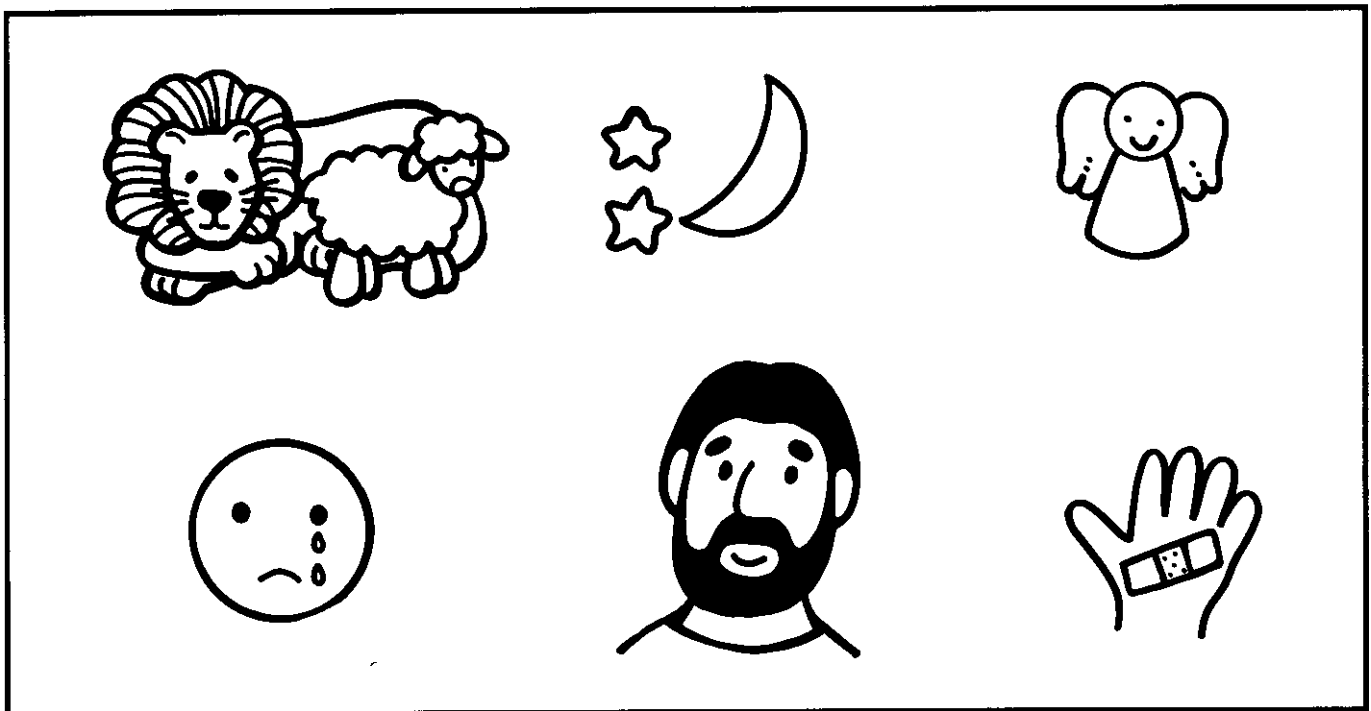
“They will all go to a very bad place called Hell,” said Karen.

“But, isn’t it exciting to know that we don’t have to go to a bad place? Jesus loves us so much that He is preparing a special place for those

who love Him,” said Alice. “We just need to tell Jesus we are sorry for our sins. He will give us a special love in our hearts for Him. He wants us to tell others what He has done for us. Then someday we can go even farther than the astronauts have gone—beyond the moon, the stars, and the planets. We can go to Heaven! Won’t that be wonderful?”

What Will Be in Heaven?

Circle the things that will be in Heaven. Draw an X through the things that will not be in Heaven.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

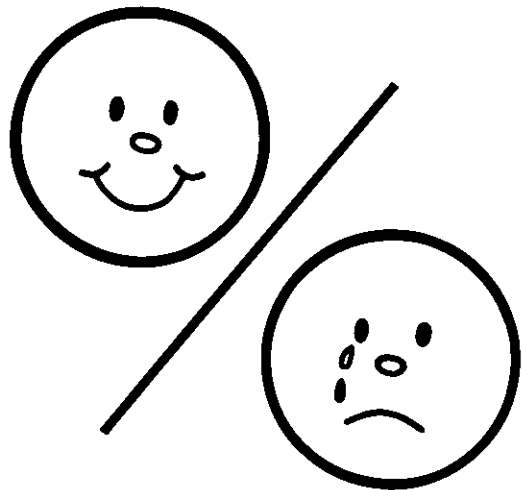
God's Word teaches that there are two places in which eternity can be spent—in Heaven or in Hell. This unit will focus on that reality.

To help your child visualize Heaven, help him create a three-dimensional scene picturing it. Give him a shoe box and help him glue light blue paper to the inside and bottom of the box. Turn the box on one side. Let him cut out mansions, golden streets, a river of life, etc., from gold foil paper. Angels, bells, and other decorative features may be cut from Christmas cards. Cut out people, leaving a tab at the bottom of each. Bend tab and glue to the bottom of the Heaven scene. Add clouds made from cotton and sprinkle on glitter.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 6:20
MONDAY: Revelation 22:14
TUESDAY: Revelation 20:15
WEDNESDAY: II Peter 2:9
THURSDAY: John 14:2
FRIDAY: Revelation 21:4
SATURDAY: I Thessalonians 4:17



Bible Text

Revelation 21:10-27; 22:1-5
Mark 9:42-48

Memory Verse

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. — Matthew 6:20

I Want to Go to Heaven!

Use the words in the box to fill in your answers to the crossword puzzle.

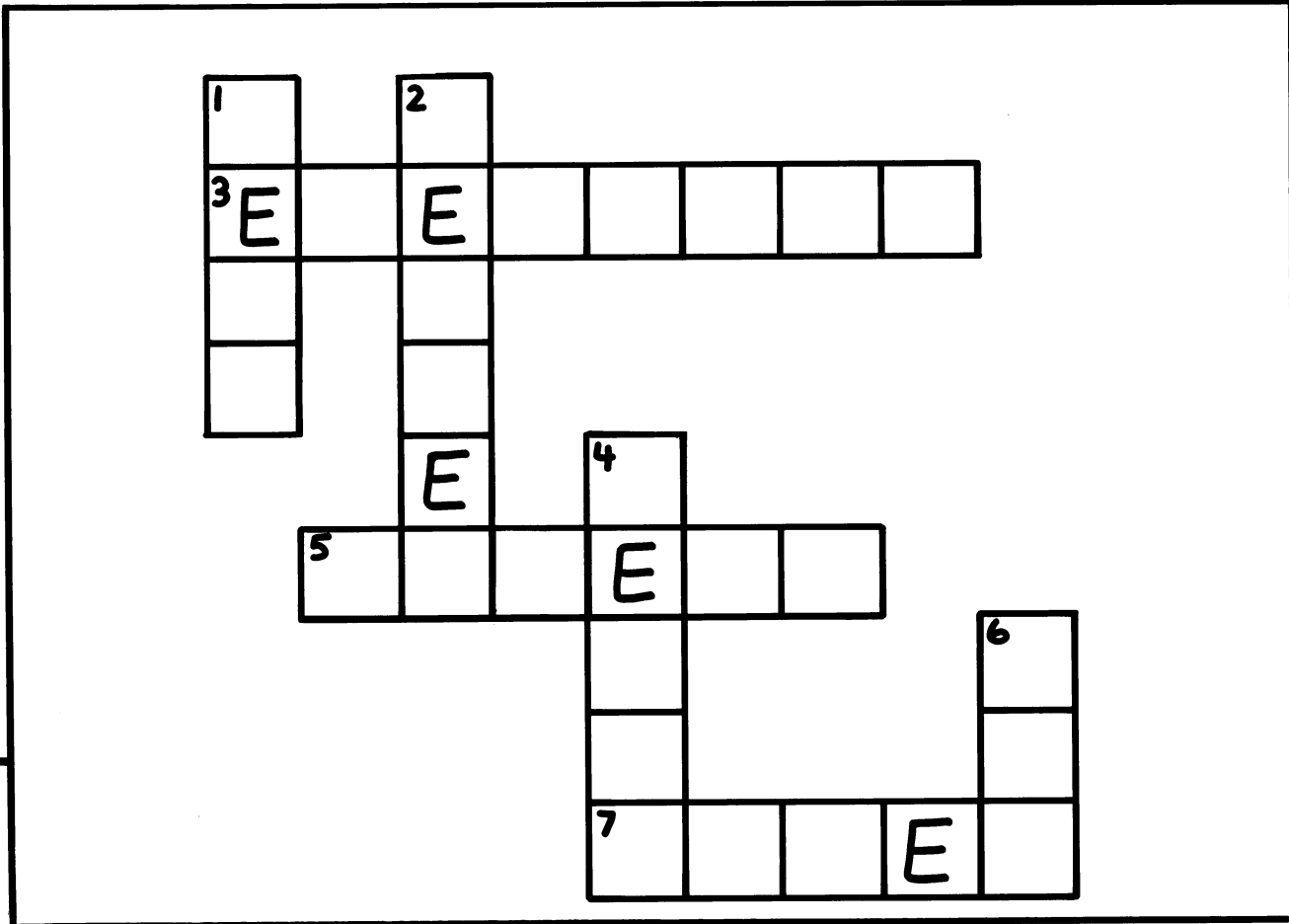
GOD
 ANGELS
 HELL
 HEAVEN
 SAVED
 ETERNITY
 JESUS

ACROSS:

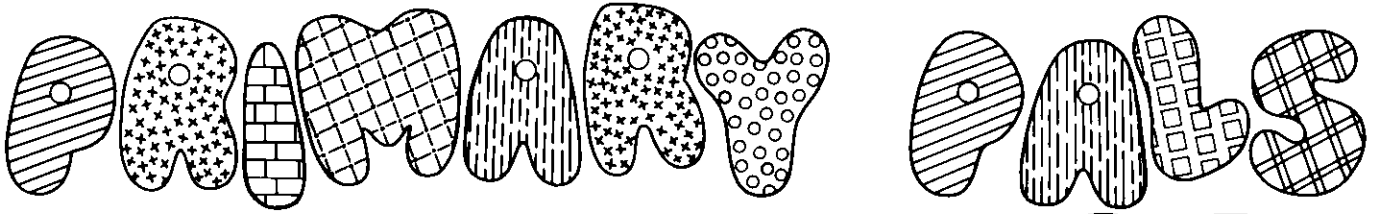
3. Time in Heaven will last for _____.
5. They live in Heaven and work for Jesus.
7. You must be _____ if you want to go to Heaven.

DOWN:

1. People who don't love Jesus will live forever in _____.
2. We want to spend eternity in _____.
4. Who is waiting for us in Heaven?
6. Who is Jesus' Father?



Name: _____



The Right Choice

“Why would God want to send people to Hell?” Jimmy asked his Sunday school teacher.

“Oh, Jimmy,” she quickly replied, “God doesn’t want to send anyone to Hell. He wants everybody to be with Him in Heaven. But there can be no sin in Heaven. If people want to go to Heaven they must not have any sin in their hearts. And Jesus made a way for all people to have clean hearts so they can be ready for Heaven.”

“I remember that lesson from Easter time,” said Jimmy. “Jesus died so that if a person is sorry for his sins and asks Jesus to forgive him, then he is

ready for Heaven. But, Teacher, what if someone dies and then he is sorry? Will Jesus help him then?”

“There is a story in our Bible about that very thing. Jesus told it to some men who didn’t love Him. The story goes like this:

“There was once a very rich man who wore only the finest clothes. He ate the best food and lived in a beautiful mansion. He had many friends who helped him enjoy his riches, but he did not love God.

“There was another man whose name was Lazarus. He was a poor beggar who could be found sitting

outside the front gate of the rich man's house. Lazarus was so poor that many times he would have loved just to have the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. It seemed that Lazarus had no friends on earth, but he loved God.

"One day Lazarus died and right away he was in Heaven. How happy he was to be there! He was no longer sick or poor. He could share all the riches and good things that were in Heaven. He forgot all about his sad life on this earth—it did not matter anymore. He was safe with Jesus forever!"

"What about the rich man who did not love God?" asked Jimmy. "What

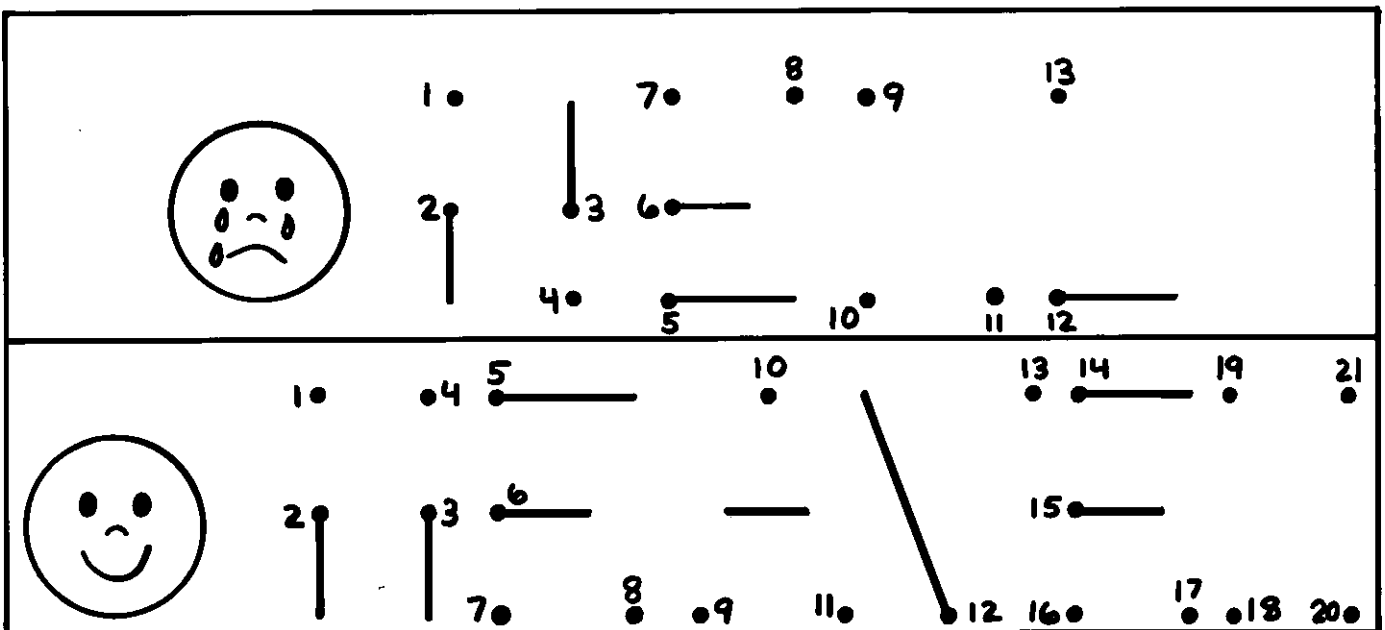
happened to him?"

"The rich man died also. How sad for him to find himself in Hell. It was awful. He was burning in the flames and he was very thirsty. But there was no water in Hell. Oh, how he wished that he had asked God to make him ready for Heaven! Now he was very sorry but it was too late. He should have made the right choice before he died. He had lived a selfish life while he was on earth. If only he had loved God.

"So you see, Jimmy, we have to choose now where we want to go when we die. With Jesus in our hearts we can know that we will spend eternity with Him in Heaven."

Where Did They Go?

Connect the dots to find the names of the places in which the rich man and Lazarus will spend eternity.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Children of primary age often are becoming very interested in money. As they learn the aspects of saving and spending, this lesson is a perfect opportunity to illustrate that accumulation of great wealth is not necessarily a key to happiness.

Our story compares the earthly existence of a rich man with that of the beggar Lazarus. While the rich man had money enough on this earth to purchase anything he wanted, your child should understand that it did not bring him happiness in eternity.

As you talk about this point, let your child make crayon rubbings of a number of coins. Place the coins on a flat surface and lay a piece of white paper over them. Rubbing the crayon over the coin will produce its image on the paper. Let your child cut out the coins. Then ask him how much they are worth. When he replies that they have no value because they are only made of paper, help him see that even "real" money will have no value in eternity.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 25:46

MONDAY: Daniel 12:2

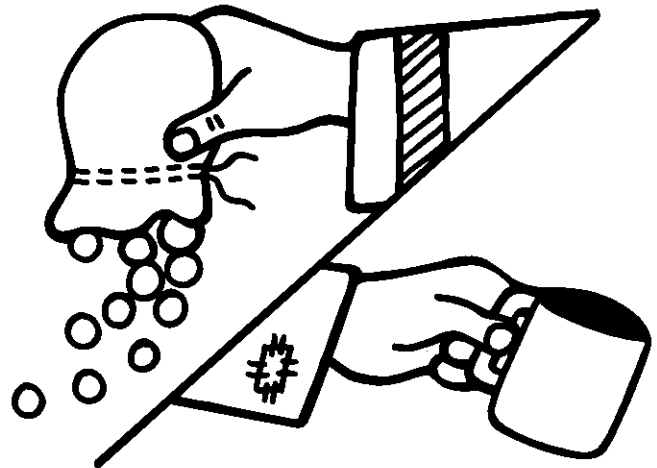
TUESDAY: Romans 6:23

WEDNESDAY: John 17:3

THURSDAY: Revelation 21:8

FRIDAY: John 3:36

SATURDAY: I Timothy 6:19



Bible Text

Luke 16:19-31

Memory Verse

These shall go away into everlasting punishment:
but the righteous into life eternal. — Matthew 25:46

Do the Right Thing

Draw a line from the rich man to the things he did. Could he change things after he died? Draw a line from Lazarus to the things he did.

I wish I had done the right things.

Rich Man

I'm glad I did the right things.

Lazarus

LYING

PRAYING

STEALING

HITTING

CHEATING

HELPING

BEING KIND

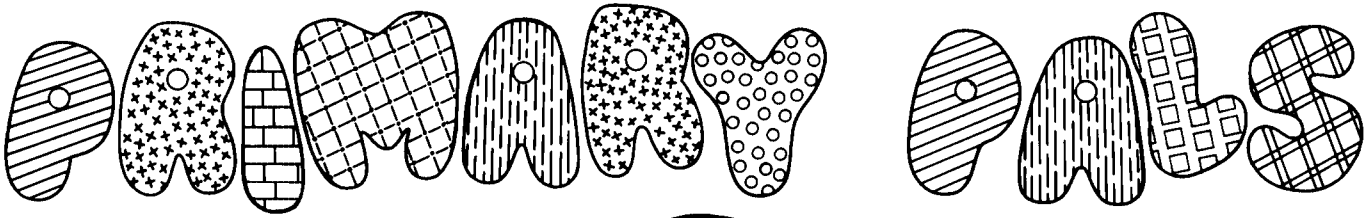
POLITE

DISOBEYING

OBEYING

LOVING JESUS

Name: _____



Doing Special Things

Coming home from school one day, Sammy noticed that Mrs. Johnson, his neighbor, was trying to get her newspaper from off the top of her camellia bush. He asked his friend, Jeff, to help boost him up so he could get it down for her. Jeff said he didn't want to because he was in a hurry to go home. So Sammy climbed onto the porch rail and got the newspaper down by himself.

About two weeks after that, Sammy's mother told him that Mrs. Johnson was going to be moving away. Before she moved she wanted to give a neighborhood party.

On the day of the party, almost all the neighbors were at Mrs. Johnson's house. After they visited for a while she asked them to be very quiet because she had something important to say. "At most parties," she said, "there is usually a special guest. Cake, presents, and especially friends are a welcome treat for that person. Well, I want to thank all of you for being good friends and neighbors to me. But today I want to honor a young man who has treated me extra special for a long time.

"He has been a great help to me," continued Mrs. Johnson. "When I

needed him to do errands for me, he always said yes. On hot summer days he often brought cold lemonade over to my house. When I was sick he would visit me. And just the other day he saw another little thing he could do—get my newspaper off the top of a bush.” She smiled at Sammy. “These may not sound like much to some people but they were a great help to me.”

Sammy blushed. He said, “I was just doing what Jesus said to do—help others. I really didn’t do much.”

“Yes you did, Sammy,” said Mrs. Johnson. “Whatever you do for others really counts. And because you have been so good to me I want to give you a gift. It will make me happy.” She handed him a gift-wrapped package. Then she said, “Okay, everybody, it’s

time for some cake and ice cream. Help yourself.”

While everyone was eating and visiting, Jeff came to Sammy and said, “I don’t think Mrs. Johnson was very fair. We were always together, so why didn’t I get a gift too?”

Behind them, Mrs. Johnson spoke, “Jeff, you were with Sammy a lot but you never helped him to help me. You always made an excuse to do something else.

“Jesus said that whatever you do for other people you are really doing for Him. Sammy has helped me and made me happy, so he has made Jesus happy too. Someday Sammy will receive a reward in Heaven because he has chosen to do what Jesus wants him to do. What will you do, Jeff?”

Hidden Words

The words listed below are from the lesson. Find each one in the puzzle and circle it.

FIRE
LEFT
LIFE
GOATS
RIGHT
SHEEP
DEPART
BLESSED
SEPARATE

S	E	P	A	R	A	T	E		
H	G	X	M	I	B	L	D		
E	F	L	U	G	R	E	E		
E	T	I	W	H	J	F	P		
P	N	F	R	T	S	T	A		
D	Q	E	P	E	K	C	R		
B	L	E	S	S	E	D	T		
A	H	O	G	O	A	T	S		

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Our lesson focuses on the thought that we choose where we will spend eternity by what we choose to do here on earth. As you talk this over with your child, begin by discussing some of the choices he makes every day.

You might find it interesting to prepare a chart which would outline some of the things about which he makes decisions. Then let him circle in red the choices he makes. Write down such things as: Will I wear a red shirt or my blue plaid? Will I eat a peanut butter sandwich or a tuna sandwich? Will I color a picture or play with my Lego blocks?

Develop this concept by talking about behavioral choices. If we choose to do what God says is right, we are making the right choice for eternity.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Joshua 24:15

MONDAY: Deuteronomy 30:19

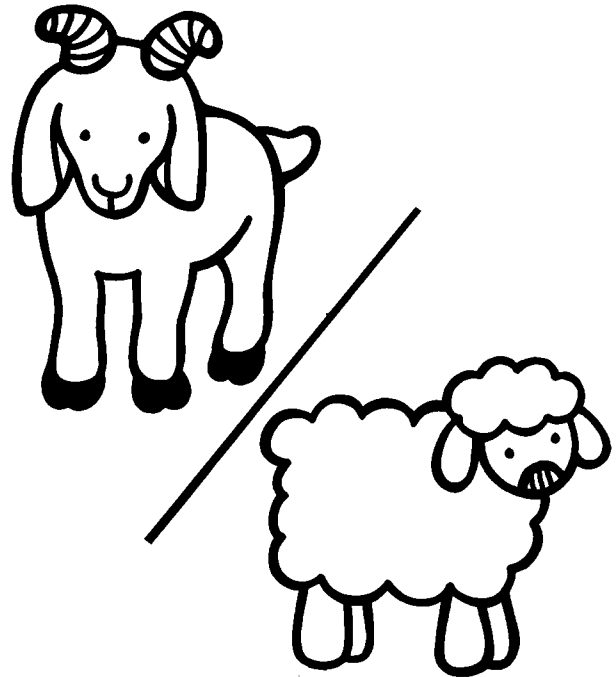
TUESDAY: Hebrews 11:24,25

WEDNESDAY: II Peter 2:9

THURSDAY: Matthew 13:49

FRIDAY: Psalm 119:30

SATURDAY: I John 2:28



Bible Text

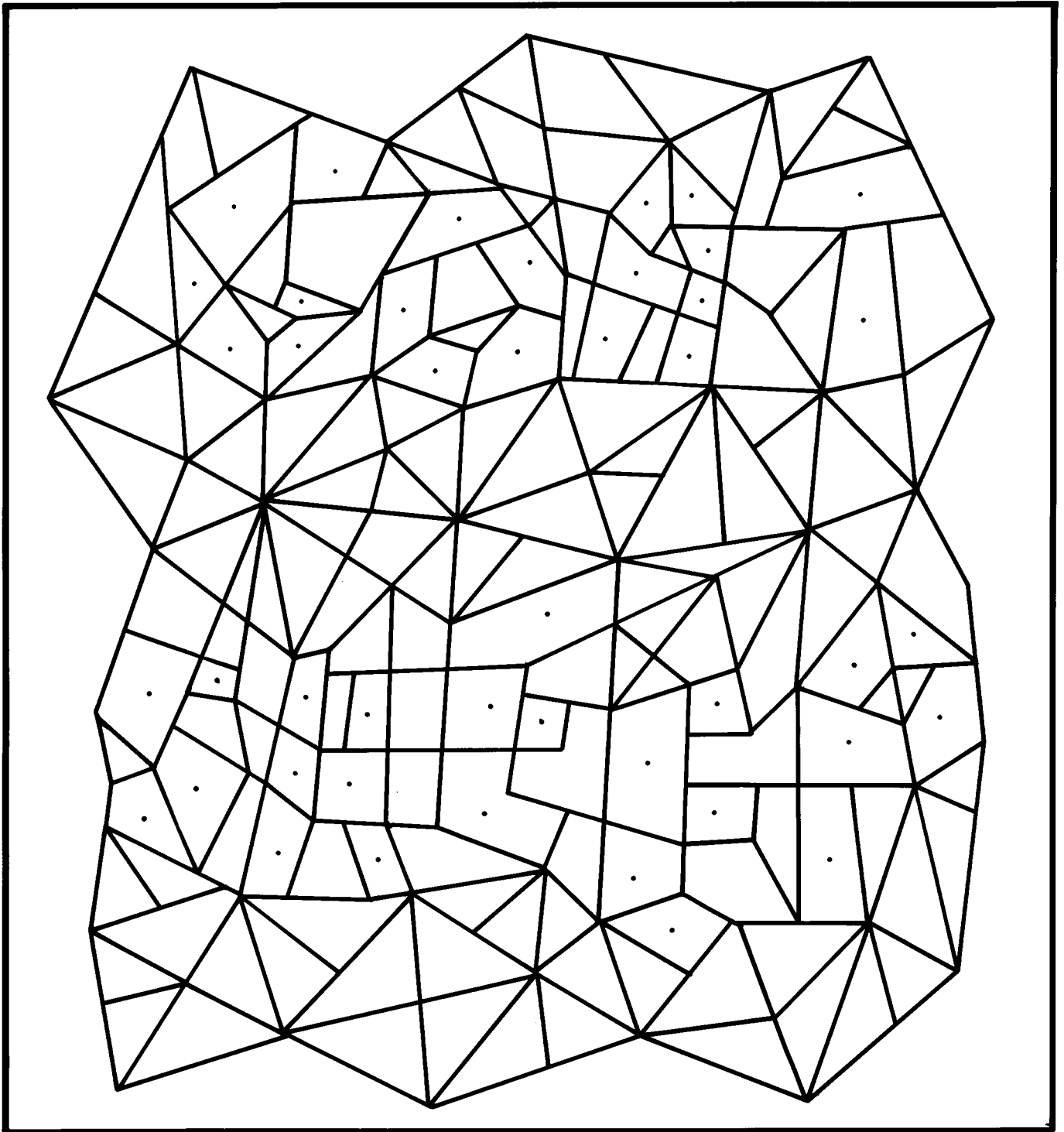
Matthew 25:31-46

Memory Verse

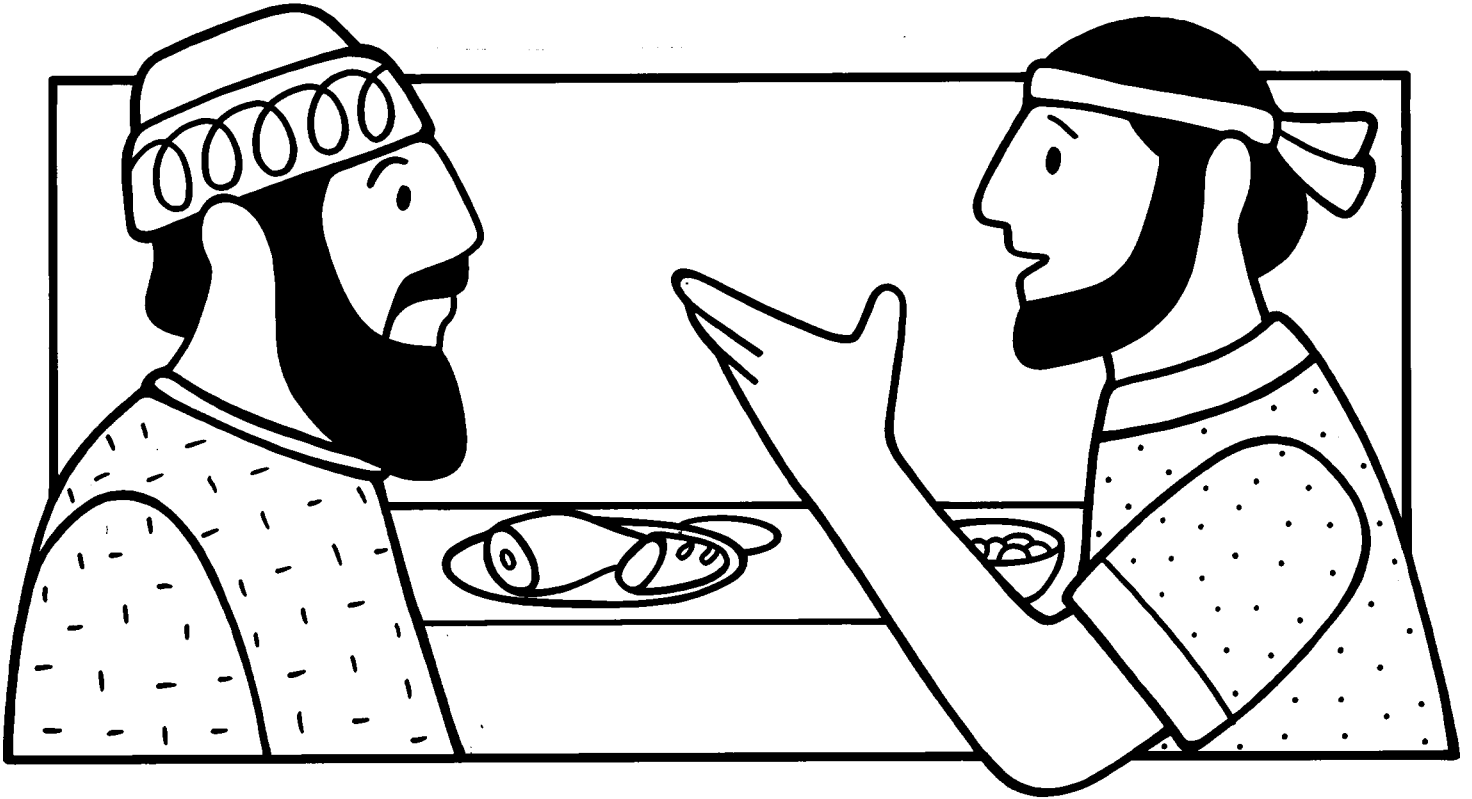
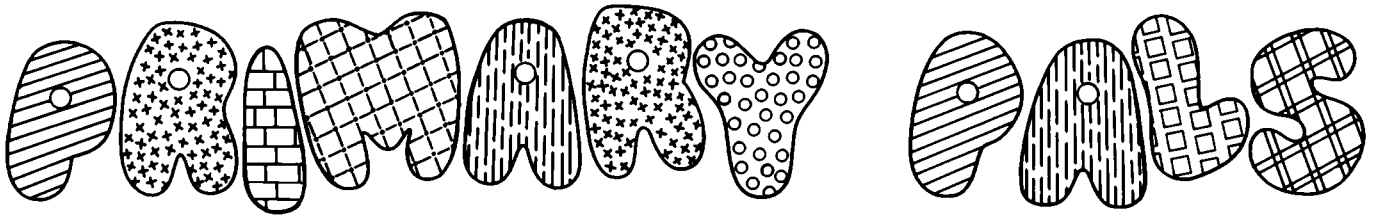
Choose you this day whom ye will serve. — Joshua 24:15

You Must Choose

Color blue in all the spaces that have a dot in them. Two words are in the puzzle.
Which one do you want to be?



Name: _____



Excuses, Excuses!

One story in our Bible is about a man who was going to have a big supper. He was so excited when the supper was finally ready. The very best food had been prepared. Many special people had been invited and his servant had gone to tell them, "The supper is ready. Come."

But wait! What message did the servant bring back to the man? No one was coming! Why?

One man would not come because he had bought some property and wanted to go and see it.

Another man wanted to see about some oxen which he had bought.

Still another man had just married a wife and said he could not come.

Everyone the servant spoke to made an excuse not to come.

The man had gone to a lot of work to prepare the supper and now that it was finally ready, not one of his friends wanted to come!

The man was very angry. He did not want this special supper to be wasted! He told his servant to go out and invite other people to his great supper. They were not to invite just the beautiful, smart, rich people. They were to invite everyone who would come. That meant they were to invite

the poor people and those who were blind or crippled. There was room for many people at the supper. But there was no room for anyone who made excuses.

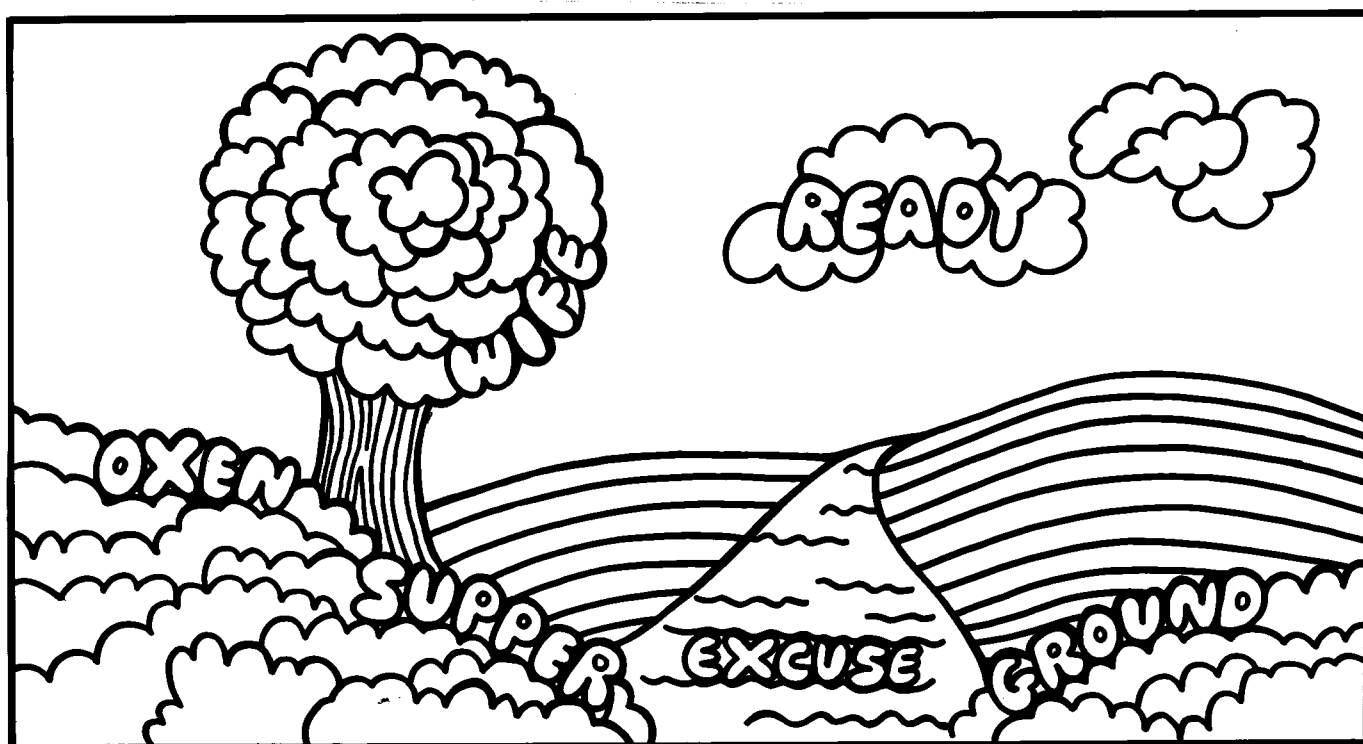
Many people came to that rich man's great supper. But there was no one there who had made an excuse.

Jesus is preparing a special supper for us. It will be in Heaven. Sometime

very soon He will come back and take us to that special supper. He has invited everyone! But just like the story in our Bible, if we make excuses we will not be able to go. We can accept the invitation by telling Jesus that we love Him. We must ask Him to take all the sin out of our heart. Then we will be ready to go to His special supper when He comes for us.

Find the Words

Some words from the text are hidden in the picture. Can you find them? They are: Supper, Ready, Excuse, Ground, Oxen, and Wife.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Primary-age children have already learned—and in some cases perfected—the art of making excuses. While this is a normal phase of childhood, this lesson should make clear to your child the danger of offering excuses to God. Our story tells of a man who made a great supper, but those invited made excuses. Because of this they missed their only opportunity to attend the great supper.

Help your child make two paper-bag puppets that can be used to illustrate the story, or perhaps to dramatize some excuses in present-day situations. Place two lunch sacks in front of him with the bottoms of the bags facing up. Let him draw a face on each sack, placing the mouth of his puppet so part of it is above the fold and part of it below. As you use the puppets, guide him in making up situations which illustrate unwise excuses.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 14:17

MONDAY: Matthew 7:26

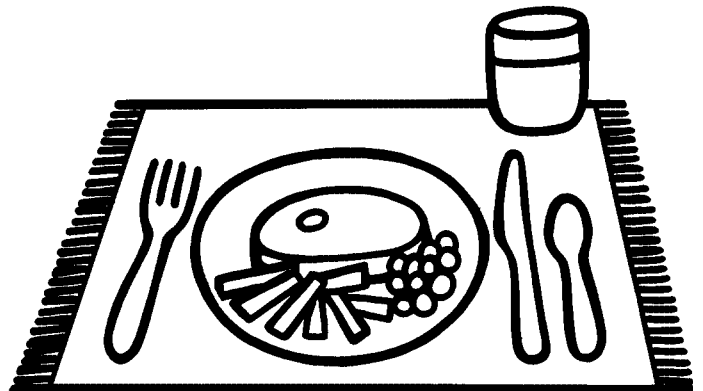
TUESDAY: Acts 24:25

WEDNESDAY: Hebrews 2:3

THURSDAY: II Corinthians 10:12

FRIDAY: Proverbs 21:2

SATURDAY: Hebrews 12:25



Bible Text

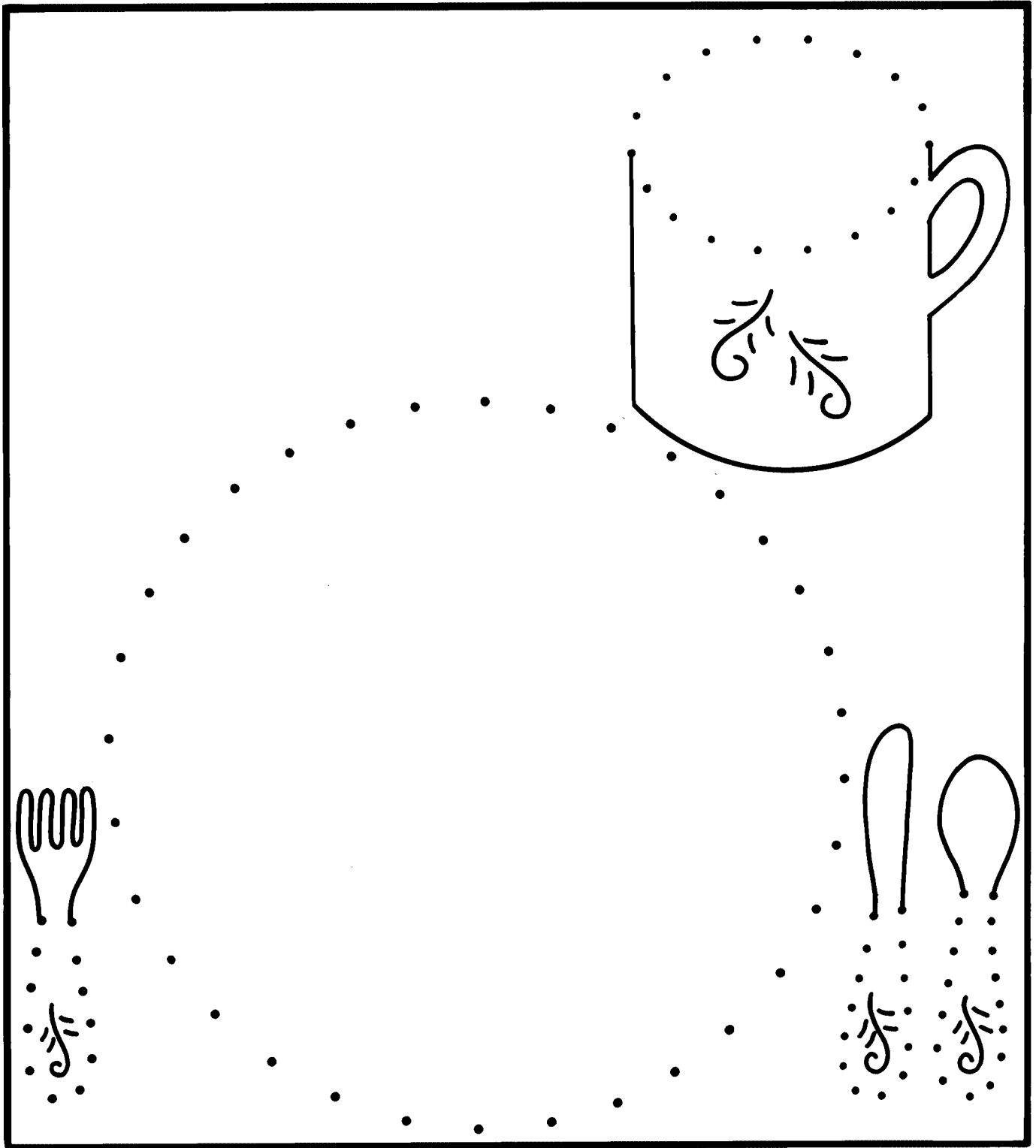
Luke 14:15-24

Memory Verse

Come; for all things are now ready. — Luke 14:17

You Are Invited

The people who made excuses missed a great supper. Connect the dots in the picture below. Then draw what you think the man served to his guests.



Name: _____