

Choices

Date: 12th October 2008

Reading: Matthew 22: 1-14

Wedding Guest Finger Puppets

You will need:

- white or coloured cardboard (you can recycle the backs of Christmas cards, biscuit boxes etc)
- pictures of a variety of people cut out from magazines, catalogues and sale brochures
- finger puppet templates (cut out of plastic ice-cream or margarine lids)
- glue sticks, scissors
- optional: craft knife (adult use only)

Preparation:

- Look for pictures that have people roughly the right size for your templates from the hips up.
- Cut templates from plastic ice-cream or margarine lids, including the holes for the fingers.

What to do:

- Cut a variety of pictures of people from the magazines, catalogues and brochures.
- Trace around the finger puppet templates onto cardboard.
- Cut out the finger puppets out.
- Glue the people onto the cardboard. Allow the glue to dry.
- Use the templates to draw the finger holes on the puppets.
- Cut the holes out with sharp scissors or an adult can do it with a craft knife.
- Children can decide if their people accepted the invitation or not. If not, let them write an 'excuse' on the back of the person.

Make a selection of finger puppets to represent all the different sorts of people whom God invites into the Kingdom.

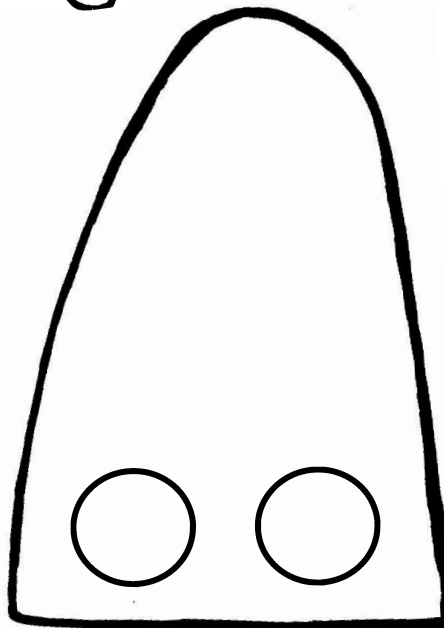
On the back of some, write the excuses or reasons why some of them refused God's invitation.

Talk it over:

Discuss with the children who they think God might invite into the Kingdom. Encourage them to find a wide variety of pictures. They might even prefer to draw their own.

Older children might like to explore the reasons why people find it difficult to say "Yes" to God today. Make up a list of reasons, distractions, excuses, difficulties people might have with committing to being Christian.

Make sure this is not a 'blame game' session – take seriously the reasons why people struggle with either believing in God or committing themselves. We all fall short and have reasons why we don't say "Yes" to God as much as we could. The aim of this session is to recognise that everyone is welcome in God's Kingdom, but also that we all often struggle to choose God's way in our daily lives. Children may be able to and identify some of the reasons why.



Finger puppet template

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