

Heavenly Banquet

Description:

a team game to play before snack or meal

Aim: illustrate need for Bible translation

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

Leader's Instructions:

1. 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's near meal time, how about a pizza buffet? Decide what is most *heavenly* to your kids, and OK with parents. Make sure everyone gets to admire the table from a short distance.
2. Divide into 3 groups: *Team 1*, *Team 2*, and *Pep Squad*.
3. Distribute pencils, scissors and paper between Team 1 and 2, positioning the Pep Squad to watch all that goes on.
4. Explain that the winning Team and Pep Squad get the goodies on the table.
5. Quietly give these instructions **only** to Team 1: *"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. Give these instructions quietly to Team 2 **only**: *"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 Pep Squad 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! Many*

Notes:

others, like Team 2, do not! They don't know Jesus died for their sins. They will miss out on the best unless someone tells them."

2. Ask, "Where do people find this information?" (in the Bible) Ask them for specific verses to explain salvation. (i.e. John 3:16) "But," tell them, "over 300 million people* do not have these instructions! 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 to Team 2.
Make the connection between that act and modern-day missions.
4. Now, everyone sits down to a feast!

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

Optional Activity: See the *Projects to Do* section for ways kids can be involved in getting Bibles to those who still wait for them.

* 2001 figures from Wycliffe USA