

St. James Episcopal Church  
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!  
OCTOBER 15, 2017—THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (PROPER 23)  
WHAT'S THIS BIG PARTY?



Jesus told a story about life in God's family. He compared it to a big party. He said that a King invited his close friends and they didn't want to come to the party!

So, the King said, go and invite everyone! No matter what they look like, no matter where they are from, they don't even have to be perfect. The King said—I want

everyone to come and be a part of my family. So people came! It was a wonderful party!

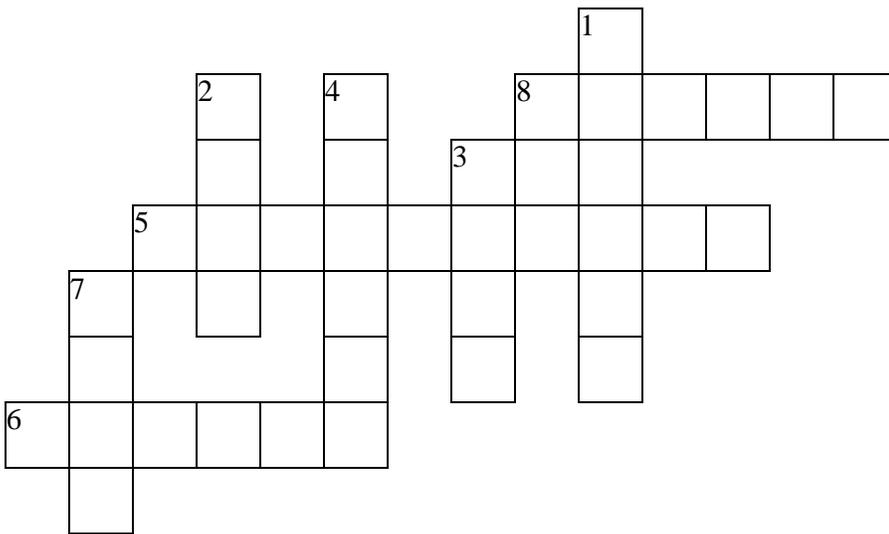
*Based on  
Matthew 22:1-14*

This story is about a party. Jesus also compared life in God's family to hard work. Sometimes we are supposed to work hard; sometimes we can relax and enjoy ourselves. Either way, working hard or celebrating, God wants YOU to be a part of God's family!

## THE GOSPEL AND REAL LIFE

Today's Gospel story tells us that God always looks for you, for me, for everyone. God wants you, me and everyone to be a part of God's big, loving, joyful and hardworking family. Sometimes you might not want to answer, you might be too busy, too tired, or think that other things are more important. Luckily for us, God will not give up on us that quickly or easily. God reminds us that nothing is more important than being part of this family. When we accept God's invitation we learn that each of us is important and God loves us.

### WORKING AND PLAYING IN GOD'S FAMILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



#### Across

- 5 A way to tell someone they should come to a party.  
6 I love going to the play \_\_\_\_\_.  
8 A person who plants and harvests.

#### Down

- 1 People related to each other.  
2 A man who rules a kingdom.  
3 Something to eat at a birthday party.  
4 Someone you work, play and talk with.  
7 Before we play, we have to get our \_\_\_\_\_ done.

## BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

This is a difficult parable to understand. Here are a few points that may make talking about it easier. The guests who wouldn't attend the party may be understood as people who have the opportunity to be a part of something wonderful, but say no. The second round of guests who were invited may be understood as people who are often considered to be second class, unworthy or undesirable, who are sinful, or poor, or "different". To understand the guest who wasn't dressed properly, we have to know about wedding feasts in Jesus' time. The guests were given special clothes to wear by the host. To come into the feast not wearing the robe was a huge insult to the host. So this guest was not willing to really be a part of the family, not willing to change or accept the true gift of being invited.

#### **Dinner Table Conversations:**

*What invitations have you received from friends or family?*

*Did they make you happy? Why?*

*Talk about a time that you have been invited to be a part of something that is important.*

*Talk about a time that you were invited to make the world a better place.*

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know. It is posted weekly on [www.stjamesbatavia.org](http://www.stjamesbatavia.org)