

## The Bride of Christ

Teacher Pep Talk: Sometimes people wonder if Jesus was married. (No, He wasn't.) But the Bible tells us that one day there will be the Wedding Supper of the Lamb in Heaven to celebrate the "wedding" of Jesus Christ to His Bride (The Church.) The church is made up of all those who have believed in Jesus, through all time. One day, as Believers, we will be at the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb, and the Lord Jesus will be there too. What a great day that will be! See you there!

You will need: Items a Bride might wear or carry (*Example: a veil and a bouquet*)  
Photos of weddings (*Yours, your family's, or other families'*)

Major Points: The Church is the Bride of Christ  
There will be a Wedding Supper in Heaven  
Jesus is Preparing His Bride  
Jesus will be with His Bride (the Church) Forever

Scripture Ref: Revelation 19:6-9 *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

*Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

*Ephesians 5:32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

Memory Verse: Rev. 19:9 *Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!*

Lesson: **The Church is the Bride of Christ**

- (*Before you start the lesson, put on your veil and hold a bouquet of flowers. Or you may ask an assistant or one of the children to do so.*) Hum "Here Comes the Bride." (*"La, da, tee dah.... La, da, tee dah... La da tee dah, la tee dah, la tee dah!!!!"*)
- Don't you think I'm a beautiful bride? (*Giggles, some opinions.*)

- Oh, come on! You don't think I'm BEAUTIFUL? I thought ALL brides were beautiful! (*Smile... Have some fun with them.*)
- (*You can take off the veil and put down the flowers now.*)
- Have any of you ever been to a wedding? (*Wait for answers.*)
- I have been to a wedding. I have some photos of a wedding. (*Show some photos from weddings – either your own or others.*)
- See, I was right... the bride is always pretty! ☺
- I'm going to tell you about another bride. This bride is going to be extra special pretty, because Jesus is getting this bride ready for Himself.
- This bride is going to be The Church!
- That's right. One day in Heaven there's going to be a BIG party for Jesus and His Bride... The Church!
  - We have been studying about the Church.
  - We know that the Church is made up of all the people who have ever believed in Jesus through all of time.
- The future of the Church is to be with Jesus forever.
- What does that mean for us?
- It means that all of us who have trusted in Jesus as our Savior will be with Him forever in Heaven.
- Wow! That's great! That's a good reason to have a Big Party!

### **One day there will be a Wedding Supper in Heaven**

- And that's just what's going to happen!
- The Bible says that one day in Heaven there's going to be a party called the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.
- Everyone who has ever trusted in Jesus as their Savior will get to be there at this party.
- And then we will be in Heaven with Jesus forever and ever!
- The Bible says "Blessed are those who are invited to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb." That's us!

### **Jesus is Preparing His Bride**

- Whenever there is a wedding, people have to get ready for the wedding. Who do you think has to get ready? (*Wait for answers: The Bride, the Groom, the families.*)
- The Bride always makes herself beautiful.
- How would she do that? (*Wait for answers. EX: Wash her hair. Take a shower. Put on new clothes and shoes. Fix her hair. Paint her fingernails. Put on lipstick and other makeup. Etc.*)
- Whew! That sounds like a lot of work! It makes me tired just thinking about it all!
- But how would the church ever make itself ready for Jesus? (How could we ever be clean enough or nice enough for Him?)
- The **Good News** is that we don't have to do that at all! (Whew!)

- Jesus is preparing His Bride (The Church) for Himself
- He has done all the hard work of getting His Bride ready.
- The Bible tells us that Jesus died to make the church holy
- And that He continues to cleanse her (by washing her with water) through the Word of God.
- It also says that one day He will present her to himself, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.
- Oh, that will be so pretty! The church will be the most beautiful bride ever, because Jesus is making her that way.
- What fun it will be to be at the Wedding Supper of the Lamb!
- Let's pray and thank God that we can be invited to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

Prayer: Dear God,  
Thank you that we can be invited to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.  
Thank you that you are preparing (your bride) the church for that day.  
Thank you that you love us!  
We love you back!  
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Choose 2-3 activities that seem to work well with your group.

**The Big Party** – *The children will pretend to have a big wedding party or supper.*

NOTE: If you want to make this a special outreach to the children, you might invite your pastor or youth worker to come to class and to explain the Gospel to the children.
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**Before Class:** Arrange to have a long low table available on the day of class. If no table is available, substitute a large sheet spread out on the floor where the children may sit along the edges and pretend it is a table. Arrange for paper plates, cups and napkins for everyone. Also you will need other things that might be at a wedding party: flowers in the room, place cards around the table, special clothing ideas, and food for snacks. (Consider cake or other treats, water to drink, ice, and maybe those little mint things. But... **NO NUTS!!** Nuts are a **choking hazard!** Also watch for food allergies!)

**During Class:** Be certain to set up the wedding supper so that there are enough places for everyone present! Invite the children to attend the wedding supper. Help each child find his/her place around the table. Let everyone be seated. Pray together thanking God for the food. Serve the food. Let the children eat. Remind the children that because of what Jesus has done for us, we are all invited to accept Jesus as our Savior. We can accept His very kind invitation, if we want to. This is something we each get to decide for ourselves. One day in Heaven there will be the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, and all of those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior will be at that Big Party. What a great day that will be! Pray again, thanking God that, because of what Jesus did for us, we can accept His very kind invitation to the Big Party if we want to.

**Dance to the Music** – *The children will play a game with movement and music.*

**Before Class:** Bring a music playing device to the classroom with appropriate music for the age group. (*Christian music is a nice choice.*)

**During Class:** Remind the children that there is always music at weddings. Sometimes there is even dancing at the big party afterwards! Have the children stand so that there is some space between them. Explain that you are going to play a “dancing” or a “moving” game. When you turn on the music, everyone will dance (or move) to the music. When you turn off the music, everyone will freeze in place. Now, turn the music on and let it play for a minute or so; then turn it off suddenly. The children will “freeze.” Choose the child who is the stillest. Let that person turn the music on/off the next time, and also let them choose the next person who is stillest. **Repeat.** Have fun!

**Here Comes the Bride** – *The children will enjoy some time dressing up for a wedding.*

**Before Class:** Bring in to the classroom some fabric to create “wedding clothes.” You might have some hats, big shoes, old shirts/coats, and ties, to dress up as the Groom. Also bring some pieces of white cloth (dress) and netting (veil material) for the Bride. Other fun things are: fancy headbands or tiaras, gloves, high heels, and tutus. Consider silk flowers for “bouquets.” You might also want to bring some clothespins to help keep on the outfits. Make sure all costumes and fabric pieces will go over the children’s regular clothes.

**NOTE:** “Angel” costumes from the Christmas pageant work GREAT for bride outfits.

**During Class:** Set aside a special area for “dressing up.” Work in small groups allowing the children to dress up a few at a time. Consider photos of finished “outfits” done in a special “Photo Spot” in the classroom. (*Photos are a lot of fun at weddings!*) Be sure that all fabrics and/or materials are handled carefully and returned where they belong.

**A Place for You** – *The children will create a placemat with the Memory Verse on it.*

**Before Class:** Provide contact paper (lots!), crayons or markers, scissors, and rulers. (Construction paper and glue.) Also bring copies of the activity sheet for the children.

**During Class:** On the activity sheet, have the child to fill in his/her name on the space in the place card. Color the silverware, plate, and glass. Cut out all the pieces. (Glue pieces on to a large piece of construction paper, if you like.) Pull the backing off a rectangular section of contact paper and lay it on the table sticky side up. Put the various pieces on the contact paper. Place another piece of contact paper on top to seal it. Press out the air bubbles as you go, using a ruler by scraping it along on its side. Trim off the edges of the contact paper. Display or send placemats home.

**Alternatively:** Color the place settings on the activity sheet, making sure that each child writes his or her name on the place card at top left. Send the papers home with the children, or make a bulletin board for your class, using all of the finished artwork.

**Idea:** For your bulletin board, you might arrange the place settings as if they were around a large table. **Make sure that everyone is accounted for!** For display in older classrooms or in the hallway, you could add (in the center of the bulletin board) the words “Have you reserved your place?”

My Name is...

