



START *the* PARTY

Celebrate the Good News

CRAFTS

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Matthew's Party
Luke 5:27-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus is a good reason
to have a party.**

KEY QUESTION

**What is your favorite
type of party?**

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

ICE CREAM CONES

WHAT YOU NEED:

Bottom line stickers, brown snow-cone cups, pastel colored paper, brown markers, glue sticks, red pom-poms, confetti pieces (or hole punch and various colored paper)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ahead of time, use a paper cutter to cut colorful strips of paper 1/2" x 8 1/2".
- Give each kid a brown snow-cone cup and several strips of paper.
- Set the brown markers, confetti or paper circles, and glue sticks in the center of the table.
- Instruct kids to use the marker to draw hash marks along the cone to add texture.
- Lead kids to glue their strips of paper to form the ice cream for their cone. Glue one end of the strip to the inside top of cone and the other end inside the opposite side of the top. Repeat with additional strips. (see example picture)
- Encourage kids to glue confetti as sprinkles and a red pom pom cherry on top.
- Give kids a bottom line sticker to add to their cone.
- Instruct kids to write their names on their cone somewhere and set in a designated spot for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! All week long, we're learning to start the party and celebrate the good news! Jesus loves us, and He wants to have a relationship with us. Matthew couldn't believe that Jesus would choose to be his friend, and he certainly didn't expect to be accepted after so many wrong choices. But Jesus loved Matthew, and that changed Matthew's whole life! He threw a party to celebrate. When you look at these creative cones, remember that you are loved and that **Jesus is a good reason to have a party.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about how you felt when you first heard the good news about Jesus and His love for you. Who told you about Jesus? How did it make you feel to know He accepted you and loved you?)

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TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Wedding Feast
Matthew 22:1-14

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Everyone is invited to the party.

KEY QUESTION

How does it feel to be invited?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
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Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

PARTY PEOPLE

WHAT YOU NEED:

Pipe cleaners, wooden beads, face beads, paper straws, yarn, precut cardboard pieces, and kid-friendly scissors.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a section of yarn, a small piece of cardboard.
- Set out the pipe cleaners, wooden beads, straws and scissors.
- Show kids how to wrap some yarn around a piece of cardboard to make a thick bundle then remove the bundle of yarn from the card. Fold a pipe cleaner in half and trap the yarn in the middle twisting the pipe cleaner together to secure the yarn.
- Instruct kids to assemble their party people using the following steps:
- Thread the ends of the pipe cleaner through the large bead, pull the bead to the top trapping the yarn. Trim the looped ends of the yarn to make the hair.
- Add a small bead to make your dolls neck and bend the pipe cleaner ends out to make the arms. Fold a second pipe cleaner in half and put it over one of the arms to make the body and legs.
- Add beads to make the body and straws with more beads to make the arms and legs. Fold the ends of the pipe cleaners over to secure the last beads.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Friends, your party people look great! The king in the story Jesus told invited EVERYONE to his wedding feast to celebrate. How does it feel to be included in the game or invited to the party? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, it feels great. No one wants to be left out! Jesus told this story so we'd understand that everyone is invited to follow Him. No one is left out or excluded. Can you think of someone who needs to know about Jesus and His love for them? Think about that friend this week, and look for ways you can talk about Jesus and what a good friend He is! Remember, **everyone is invited to the party.**"

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TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate the good news.

KEY QUESTION

What's the best news
you've ever heard?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
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Acts 2:28, NIRV

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CELEBRATION WINDSOCK

WHAT YOU NEED:

Plastic rings, plastic ribbon, scissors, fine-tip permanent markers, string, metal rings.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set a plastic ring and pair of scissors at each spot at the table with the ribbon and markers nearby.
- Encourage kids to cut strips of ribbon to attach to their plastic ring. *(For younger kids you can pre-cut ribbon strips or encourage leaders to cut for them.)*
- Demonstrate for kids how they can either tie the top of their ribbon to the ring, or they can loop their ribbon in half and pull the tails through the loop.
- After kids finish attaching ribbon around their ring, encourage kids to use remaining time to write "Celebrate the good news" on each ribbon.
- As kids work, assist them in tying string to the top of their hoop for hanging. Tie two strings that criss-cross and add a metal ring to the top.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Your windsocks look great! You can wave these around and celebrate as you watch the wind catch the streamers. As followers of Jesus, we have SO much to celebrate! God sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Like the father in the story Jesus told, God loves us and is ready to forgive us. That's GOOD news worth celebrating! Remember, we can **celebrate the good news.**"

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TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Woman at the Well
John 4:1-26, 39-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the life of the party.

KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

MEMORY VERSE

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PAPER PARTY CAPS

WHAT YOU NEED:

Colored cardstock, kid-safe scissors, pencils for rolling paper, bottom line badge stickers and glue sticks (*optional: tape*)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ahead of time, cut cardstock strips 2" x 11" (2 per kid) and 1" x 11" (6 per kid) and print the visor template on cardstock (1 per kid).
- Lay out the printed templates, paper strips, scissors and glue sticks.
- Instruct kids to select two paper strips in the same color and use the glue stick to glue them together to make one long strip. Use the black line as a guide for where to glue, matching up one end to the line on the other strip. Hold for several seconds to secure. Then bring the two ends together to and glue to create a circle.
- Show kids how to cut out their visor hat by following the outer black line, not cutting the inner curved line. Write their names on the back.
- Show kids how to cut slits from the bottom flat edge of their hat up to the inner half circle. Once slits are cut, fold tabs up along the inner circle line toward the center and then flatten out.
- Lay the paper strip circle you created in step one above on top of the half circle and glue the tabs to the inside. To make this easier, glue the two side tabs and center tab first, then glue the rest of the tabs. Kids could work with partners to make it easier and help hold glued strips down.
- Once the glue is dry, allow kids to select six skinny strips to glue to the inside the circle to create to the top of the cap. Kids can crisscross the strips, curl one end with a pencil, fold back and forth for texture and use any colors they choose.
- Give kids a bottom line badge sticker to put on their brim to finish it off.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These hats are so fun! And each one is unique. I love how Jesus knew everything about the woman He met at the well that day. He knew her mistakes and He loved her just the same. He knew she needed more than drinking water. She needed living water! Jesus offers us the same living water—the kind that leads to eternal, forever life with Him! I hope these party hats will remind that you are deeply loved and that **Jesus is the life of the party.**"

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