



## *Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way*

October 15, 2017

Nineteenth Sunday of Easter

# Invite Someone

*Isaiah 25:1-9*

*Psalms 23: 5*

*Philippians 4:1-9*

*Matthew 22:1-14*



**Excuses! Excuses!** *Object: An Invitation.*

Look what I have. It's an invitation to a party. A friend of mine is having a birthday party and has invited me to come. Look at what it says at the bottom of the invitation... it says, "R.S.V.P." Do you know what that means? (The term R.S.V.P. comes from the French expression meaning "please respond".) It means that my friend wants me to reply to the invitation and say whether I will attend the party or not.

Sometimes people who receive an invitation to a party don't want to go, so they make up excuses. Making excuses isn't new. Even back in Bible times people made excuses.

Jesus once told a story about a king who threw a party, but none of the people he invited showed up for his party. The king was going to have a party for his son who was getting married.

All of the plans had been made, the food was prepared, the invitations had been sent. The day of the celebration came, but no one showed up! The people all began to make excuses about how busy they were.

The king was very upset, so he told his servants to go out into the streets and invite everyone they saw to come to his son's wedding celebration, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

Jesus has sent you an invitation. You will find his invitation in here. (Hold up a Bible.) The Bible is full of invitations from Jesus. He says, "Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) Jesus has invited us to come to him, and yet, some people are still making excuses.

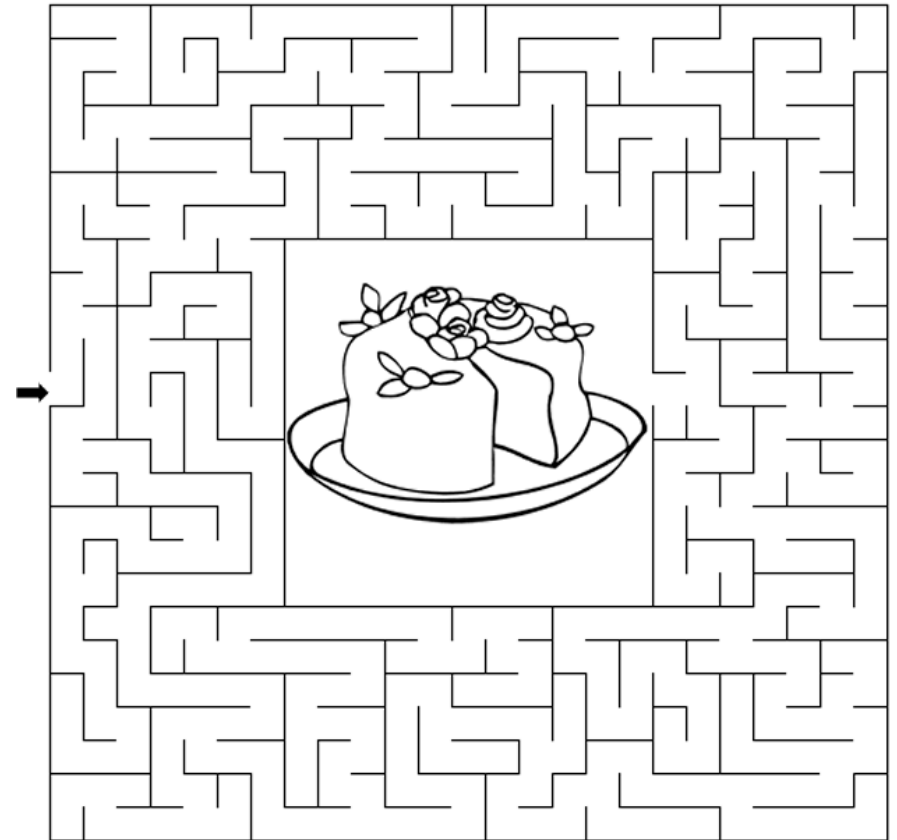
Father, thank you for Jesus, your Son. We thank you for his invitation to come and receive the free gift of life which he offers. Without making excuses, we say, "Yes, Lord, Yes!" Amen.

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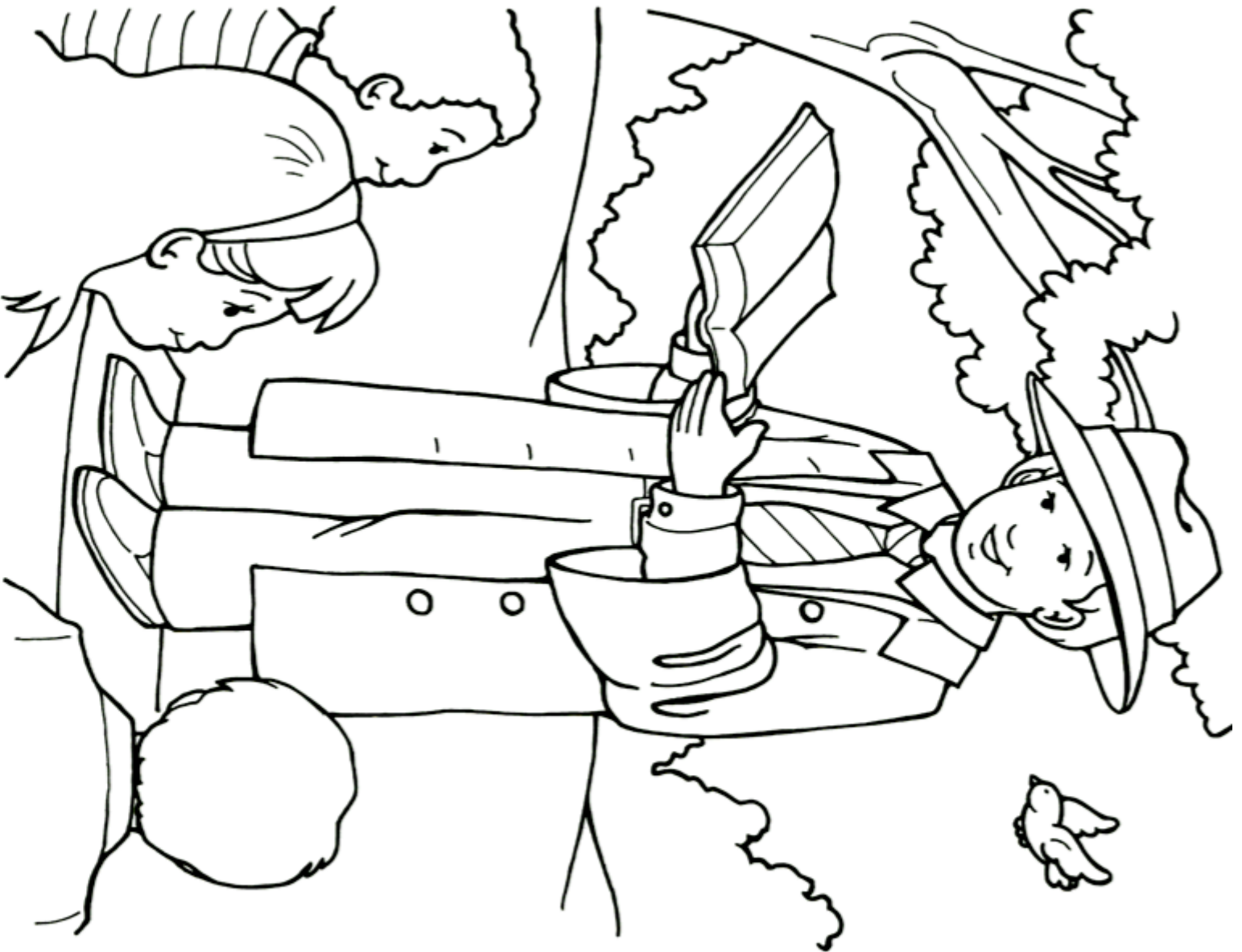
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation. Alleluia. (Isa. 25:9)

## Maze Puzzle

You are invited to the wedding banquet!  
Can you find your way to the wedding cake?



**R.S.V.P. 2 GOD BOOK MARKER:** Have the letters R - S - V - P cut out of different colored construction paper and have the child glue them to card stock paper cut in the shape and size of a book marker. Give the child markers to write the "2 GOD" and write Matthew 22:1-3. Hole punch the top and let the child put a ribbon in the top of the book marker.



“Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.  
Matthew 22:9 (NLT)