



Heavenly Banquet

A team game to play before a snack or mealtime. The aim is to illustrate the need for Bible translation.

Audience – primary and secondary school age, minimum eight participants

Time – 10–15 minutes

Equipment – two pencils, scissors, pieces of paper, plus a ‘banquet table’ of very children-desirable foods. Two envelopes: one with Team 1 written on and placed inside ‘Team 1 Key Code Breaker’ (see below); the second envelope has Team 2 written on with a blank piece of paper inside.

Bible passages – Romans 10:8–15; Revelation 5:9 and 7:9–10

Leader's instructions

Pre-session preparation:

Pile a table high with mouth-watering treats like grapes, plums, strawberries, kiwifruit, watermelon and cherries. Or, if you dare, display tempting cookies, cake, ice cream and crisps. If it is near mealtime, how about a pizza buffet? Decide what is most ‘heavenly’ to your participants, and make sure to check with parents about allergies and the amount of food that’s on offer during the session.

During the session:

1. Make sure everyone gets to admire the table from a short distance.
2. Divide into three groups: Team 1, Team 2 and the Cheering Team.
3. Distribute pencils, scissors, and paper between Team 1 and 2, positioning the Cheering Team to watch all that goes on.



4. Explain that the winning team and the Cheering Team get the goodies at the table.
5. Quietly give these instructions **only** to Team 1: *'When I say "Go", open the envelope with Team 1 written on and work together as a team. It won't be easy but do your best to figure out how to win the banquet table! The first team to bring me their keys wins!'*
6. Quietly give these instructions **only** to Team 2: *'When I say "Go", open the envelope with Team 2 written on and 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 Cheering Team to clap and generally shout encouragements to 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 the contest?'*



Look at Revelation 19:9 (ICB):

'Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Those who are invited to the wedding meal of the Lamb are happy!" Then the angel said, "These are the true words of God."

2. 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 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.'*



3. Ask, 'Where do people find this information?' (in the Bible)
4. Ask them for specific verses to explain salvation (depending on your audience, you may need to explain the term 'salvation') eg John 3:16.
5. Explain: *'But over 1.5 billion (1,500,000,000) people do not have these instructions! Why? They don't have the Bible in their own language. 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!'*



Spend some time praying for those involved in Bible translation and for the people groups who are yet to have the Bible in a language they can understand.

6. Ask *'Is there anyone on Team 1 who will help those poor, drooling people on Team 2? Would you share your key? Is there enough to share? Is it the right thing to do?'*
7. Now everyone sits down to a feast!



Team 1 Key Code Breaker for envelope

Break the code to get the Bible verse, which is
the key for the banquet.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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