

Game: Chinese whispers

Choose one person to think of a message and whispers it in the ear of someone else in your family who then in turn whispers it to someone else...and so on. Ask the last person to receive the message to reveal what they heard. Ask the person who thought of the message to say if it correct and see what if anything has been changed. It is usually vastly different from the original message.

Game: Unfolding story

One person writes one sentence on a piece of paper e.g once upon a time there was a giant... and then folds over the piece of paper leaving just one word visible and passes it to the next person to write a sentence...and so on. The last person unfolds the piece of paper and reads the story.

Challenge: Spread the message

Choose one of these messages to spread to your family this week-Eating broccoli causes your skin to turn green/Watch the news tonight because there is an important event going to take place/My favourite game is half price in Tesco this week/Our house has been bugged and everything we say is being shown on YouTube. Make up your own messages and see if you can spread them to everyone in your household. You can write these messages down, can draw pictures of your messages, sing them, act them whisper them or shout them out loud. What was the best way of spreading an important message? There are lots of different ways in which we can spread an important message, Jesus uses stories to spread messages.

Story Video: The great banquet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEbwiQvo5k4>

Story: The great banquet

"A rich landowner gave a feast. He invited all his friends to it. The servants were busy day and night preparing the feast, and at last it was ready." "His chief servant was sent out to tell the guests that the party was ready. But..." The chief servant goes to each invited guest in turn and says "come to the party!" The guest replies with the excuse he has been given. The servant came home and admitted that none of the guests would come. The landowner was sad and angry. "All right," he said, "If they won't come I'll invite someone else. Go and invite all the poor of the town. They can come instead." The servant invites the poor. As they arrive the other servants give them a wedding garment to put on - except for one guest - and start to serve the food and drink. "The servant told the landowner that the poor had all come - but there was still room. "Very well," said the landowner, "Go into the alleyways and go outside town and bring in all the down and outs there." The servant gets the children who were originally invited guests. They are also given a wedding garment and served food. "The landowner made a grand entrance." "As he walked across the floor, greeting his guests and making them feel at home, he noticed a guest without a wedding garment on. He was furious! "Why isn't this man wearing a wedding garment?" he demanded. "He wouldn't put it on," the servants explained. "If he won't wear the clothes I have provided he can't be here," answered the landowner. "Chuck him out!" And so the guest was thrown out. Because although many are invited to the Kings party, not everyone makes it!

In Bible times guests were always provided with a "wedding garment" at a feast - it was a covering provided by the host and wearing it symbolised that the guest was joining in with the celebrations. (The modern quasi-equivalent is wearing a football shirt to support your team). So when the guest refused to wear the garment he was saying that he wasn't really interested in the host, just in getting what he could from the feast! Why do you think it was important to Jesus to make the point that if we want to be at God's banquet (i.e. heaven) we need to be dressed in the clothes that God provides? How do you think the people who heard this story would have responded to Jesus?

Prayer:

Thank you God for your good message of hope and love for us. Help us to think about how we spread your message of love to our friends. Amen.