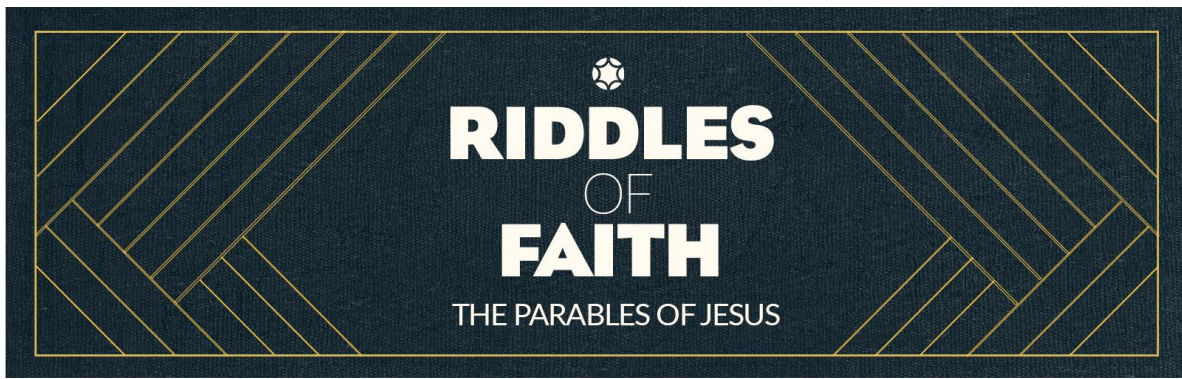




Riddles at Home

Family Companion Guide

Week Nine // How to Build a Great Excuse

Start with a Riddle

What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?

[Answer: A clock.]

Big Idea

God invites us to experience life with him. Jesus teaches us not to let excuses, busyness, or other things keep us from saying “yes” to God.

Read Together

Read Luke 14:15–24. Jesus tells a story about a man who prepares a huge banquet and invites many people to come. When everything is ready, he sends his servant to tell the guests, “Come, for everything is now ready.” But the guests begin making excuses. One needs to look at a field, another wants to try out some oxen, and another says he is too busy with his family. They all decide that something else is more important than accepting the invitation. So the host invites others to come instead—including people who might normally have been overlooked or left out. He wants his house to be full!

Talk About It

- What excuses did the invited guests make?
- Were the things they wanted to do bad things? Why were they still a problem?
- What did the host do when the first guests wouldn't come?

- What are some things that can distract us from saying “yes” to God?

Try It Together

Have everyone finish this sentence:

One way I can say “yes” to God this week is _____.

Remember This

“Come, for everything is now ready.” Luke 14:17

Pray Together

God, thank you for inviting us into life with you. Help us notice when excuses, busyness, or distractions keep us from saying yes to you. Give us willing hearts that are ready to follow you. Help our family also welcome others and make room for everyone at your table. Amen.

Keep It Going

Choose an activity to enjoy together:

- Have a family banquet: Turn an ordinary dinner into a “great banquet.” Use fancy plates, make place cards, dress up, or eat dessert first. Talk about how it feels to be invited and included.
- Make an invitation: Invite someone to dinner, dessert, the playground, church, or another family activity—especially someone you haven't included before.
- Make ridiculous excuses: Take turns inventing the funniest excuses you can think of for not doing something: “I can't clean my room because my stuffed animals are sleeping!” Vote for the best one, then talk about the difference between a funny excuse and allowing excuses to keep us from doing what we know is right.