

“Parable of the Wedding Feast”

Luke 14:7-11 ESV

Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

Parable of the Wedding Feast



Main Objective: Currently, we see a lot of self-promotion. Social media, online presence, “influencers”, and celebrities make it easy to gain attention and seek it for ourselves. However, Christ warns us not to think too highly of our own interests. In the parable of the banquet, Jesus describes the danger of trying to boost our own status, and instead being demoted. This message relates the parable and its message to modern efforts to pridefully boost our own egos. The only thing that truly matters is not what others think of us, but what God thinks!

Law/Gospel Theme: We tend to seek the best for ourselves, somehow imagining that we can earn our way into God’s good graces. Jesus reminds us, though, of the importance of humility. Life is not about what we do but about what He has done for us. Jesus warns us that pride can lead to disgrace. We don’t do things to get something back in return, but to honor and please God, who has already done everything for us.

Materials Needed: Construction paper, decorative materials, paper plates, pipe cleaners, glue/tape, markers, scissors, Bible (all optional, depending which activities you choose to use—except for the Bible, you need that for sure). **Object Lesson Materials:** (Optional) Phone or representation of social media

Scripture Passage: Luke 14:7-11

Target Students: Elementary School, adaptable for K-6th Grades

More Resources Online

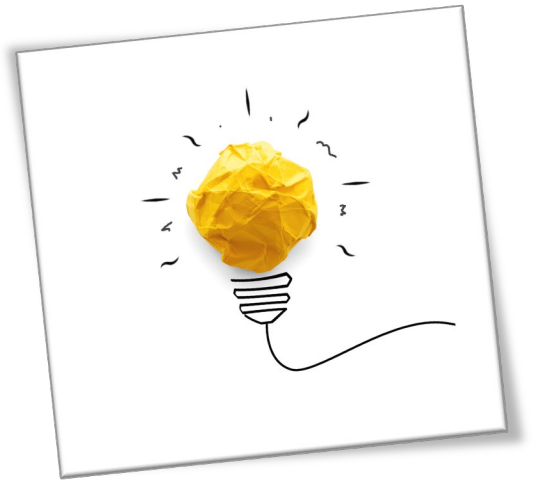
- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#)
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#)
- Watch the [video Bible Story “Parable of the Great Banquet”](#) from Saddleback Kids
- Watch the [video Bible Story “Parables of Jesus”](#) from the Bible Project
- For more free Bible illustrations, we recommend [Christian Clip Arts](#).

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Object Lesson (5 minutes)

Rebels With a Cause...



Before greeting children (or right after), act distracted, browsing through a phone or stack of items. Feel free to ad lib as desired.

Hmm...that latest post only got 14 “likes”? Come on, I thought it was brilliant! Everyone wants to know my opinions on whether pineapple belongs on pizza...and let’s see, not too many views on that Instagram story either. But at least I got some Kudos for my work out on Strava...

Oh, hello, children of God! Sorry to be distracted, I was just scrolling through some of my social media accounts. It’s important to put your best foot forward on these things. After all, people are watching me out there. They want to see the shiny wonderful things that are happening in my life! I want people to see me and notice me and pay attention to what I’m doing. If it’s not on social media, after all, did it even happen?

Well...I guess maybe that’s not the MOST important thing out there. I should pay attention to the real 3-dimensional life I’m living, and to the people right in front of me! You know, sometimes we work hard to try getting attention. We put things online for everyone to see, or we base our importance on who notices us. The people who seem to “make it” are those who are popular, after all. We watch people on YouTube and boost their platforms. We want to be the most important. We elevate our own lives and want other people to tell us how great we are, but sometimes we forget what should truly be first and foremost.

Jesus warns us about this. In the Bible, He told a story about people who try to promote themselves. He explained that those who try to get themselves into a special place of honor will probably be pushed back to a lesser place. In those days, where you sat at the table was quite important. Jesus was explaining that if we try to think too much of ourselves, sometimes it backfires. We cannot earn our own success, in the long run. Jesus advised people to take a lesser spot. If we are thinking less of ourselves and aiming to serve God, we let other people go first. We don't try to do things for applause or attention, but for the Lord.

Jesus also warned that if we are inviting people to something, we shouldn't just invite people who can give us something in return. Whether it's positive behavior, things that we can do, or even our prayers, it's important to recognize that we don't earn God's love by what we do. In this world, love seems to come with attention or popularity. That isn't how God sees it. We don't do things to get something back. We don't do things for others to like us or congratulate us. We should realize that nothing is our own. God enables us and strengthens us. All we have comes from Him, and we want to remember that reliance. Don't think too much of yourself. GOD comes first in line! Why don't we say a prayer to ask God for humility and perspective?

Prayer:

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us honor and blessing

Help us to not think too highly of ourselves

But to keep our hearts fixed on you.

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions (10 minutes)



Lesson Opening: This lesson can be challenging to explain or act out but is important to discuss. The passages covered here focus on two main components: the parable of the wedding banquet and the warning about self-serving invitations. Consider some fun warm-up activities to challenge students as you enter reading and discussion. These suggestions can also be incorporated within the lesson as students consider the text.

Here are some activities to get kids thinking... (select the best ones for your audience and age group):

- Musical chairs: to coincide with the wedding seat story, play musical chairs! Use the “classic” version or a variation, such as calling out a body part to touch to the chair when the music stops.
- Up and down: Play a variation of Simon says, alternating instructions between bending over low/squatting and standing up high. Pick up speed in the directions to try catching students in a mistake.
- Invitations: ask students who they would invite (and why) if planning a big event. To make this into a memory game, have students sit in a circle and describe one guest (or thing) they’d bring to a party. Go around the circle and have students recite what others announced, adding their own ideas.

- Look at some of the most viewed items on social media or YouTube (as appropriate). Discuss why certain things are so popular and enticing to watch. Ask students what they hope others will notice or celebrate about them.
- What is pride, and why is it dangerous? Discuss anecdotes (from personal life, history, or the students, if possible) about situations when trying to boost self-image wound up causing destruction.

Remind students that the way God views success and value is certainly not what the world deems most significant. We might want to promote ourselves and push our way to the top, but Jesus invites us to bend low to be lifted high. We shouldn't regard ourselves as the most important, but let our joy be Christ in us!

Ask: Do you know someone who thinks mostly about themselves, or brags a lot? How do you feel being around those types of people?

Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)



Bible Lesson: As always, how you choose to experience the passages will vary according to the ages and abilities of your children (and how many are participating). This passage is not too long and does not so much lend itself to acting out in parts, but can be read and explained for impact. There are two main components to consider as you examine the text.

Luke 14:1 ESV One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully.

Ask: Why do you think people were watching Jesus?

Remind or explain to students that during the life of Christ, there were leaders in the church who were threatened by His ministry and did not like what He was doing. These people criticized a lot of what He did and looked for opportunities to somehow trick or trip Him. In this passage, the Pharisees were trying to watch Jesus to see if He would say or do something offensive that they could use against Him. Jesus knew they were plotting that, though. He also knew that the Pharisees thought pretty well of themselves and tried to warn them against being too prideful. He gave a brief story as an example.

Luke 14:7-11 ESV Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, (8) "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, (9) and he who invited you both

will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. (10) But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. (11) For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus watched how these leaders jostled each other for control and power. In those days, where people sat around a table was a big deal. Having a better seat meant that you were important or powerful. The Pharisees wanted the best spots and the best esteem. Jesus knew that wasn't God's idea of what is best for us. Sometimes the more we try to boost our own ego or toot our own horn, the more likely we are to fall and fail! Jesus told the story about picking seats to emphasize that we should put the needs of others first. Competition isn't always a good thing, and life is about more than "winning" or being the best. God wants us to bring ourselves low, and He will lift us high.

Luke 14:12-14 ESV He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. (13) But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, (14) and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Ask: Who do you normally invite to a birthday party? Do you like to have a lot of people there, or only those closest to you? What kinds of parties do you like to attend?

We are all sometimes guilty of trying to get attention or please others. We want to do things that will get us noticed, and we want to give to people who can and will reward us

in return. We might be less inclined to send a Christmas present to the sister-in-law who never says thank you. We might be more likely to invite a rich friend to dinner in hopes that they'll return the favor. Sometimes we give in order to get.

Jesus admonishes against that natural leaning, though. He advises us to do good things for the sake of doing them, and not regarding what we might gain in return. Our lives are not about earthly rewards, but Heavenly ones. We don't want to show love only to those we like the best, or who love us back. Sometimes we need to do things for others who can never re-pay us and might not demonstrate love and care.

This doesn't mean we should hate ourselves or try to only do things that are painful or challenging. But it's important to remind students that we need to think of others as well. Kids don't always consider the motive behind what they are doing, but we can encourage them to think about what others around them are thinking or feeling, and act with Christ in mind first and foremost. Don't think too much of yourself; take the worst seat in the house!

Close with a prayer thanking God for being all that we need. Ask for His help in living for Him alone, rather than for our own glory or personal satisfaction.

Craft Activities (15 minutes)

Pride comes before destruction...we know this proverb well, but still sometimes think more highly of ourselves than we ought, seeking the best for our own lives rather than putting the needs of others first. Jesus advises us not to look for the "best spots at the table," but to humble ourselves. These crafts remind children of the importance of bending low to be lifted high. A special invitation recalls the banquet element of the story (and considers the feelings of others). A "blue ribbon for faith" recounts the importance of humility over competition.

Verses or Captions to Consider... (Luke 14:1, 7-14)

Don't think too much of yourself!

Bend down...to life HIM high!

You're invited...to God's house! (church details to follow)

Blue Ribbon of FAITH!

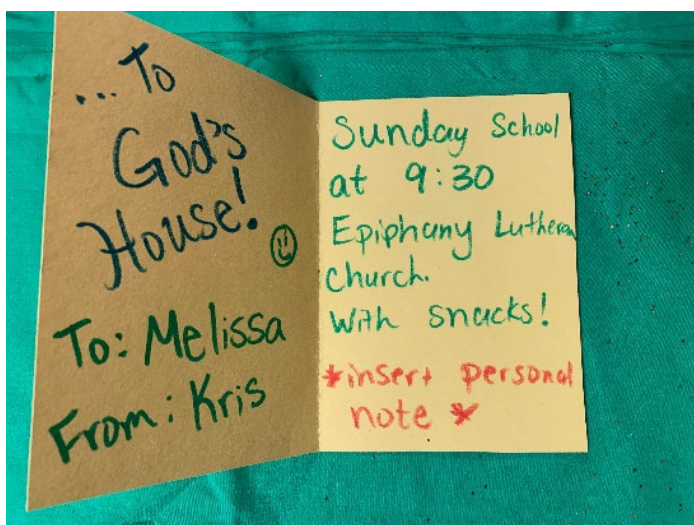
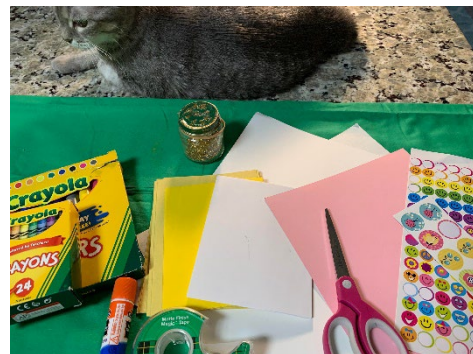
Craft one: "Invitation to Others"

You will need:

- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Paper (Construction/cardstock)
- Stickers, glitter, or other decorative items

Procedure:

1. Fold paper (construction or cardstock) into card shape.
2. On the inside of the card, provide details of church or Sunday School to invite a friend to.
3. Decorate the inside and outside of the card with extra pictures, color, and stickers, as desired.
4. Give the invitation to a friend or acquaintance that might not have a church home, or just needs a friend!



Craft Two: “Blue Ribbon For Faith”

You will need:

- Construction Paper or cardstock
- Glue or tape
- String or pipe cleaner
- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Decorative elements as desired
- Markers or crayons



Procedure:

1. Write captions and verses on the paper plate to look like a medal or center of a blue ribbon. Emphasize the role of faith and humility in our “award-winning” lives.
2. Add extra decorations as desired.
3. Cut paper or cardstock in the shape of a ribbon, and attach to bottom of plate.
4. Attach string or pipe cleaner, if desired, to hang the “ribbon” on display.



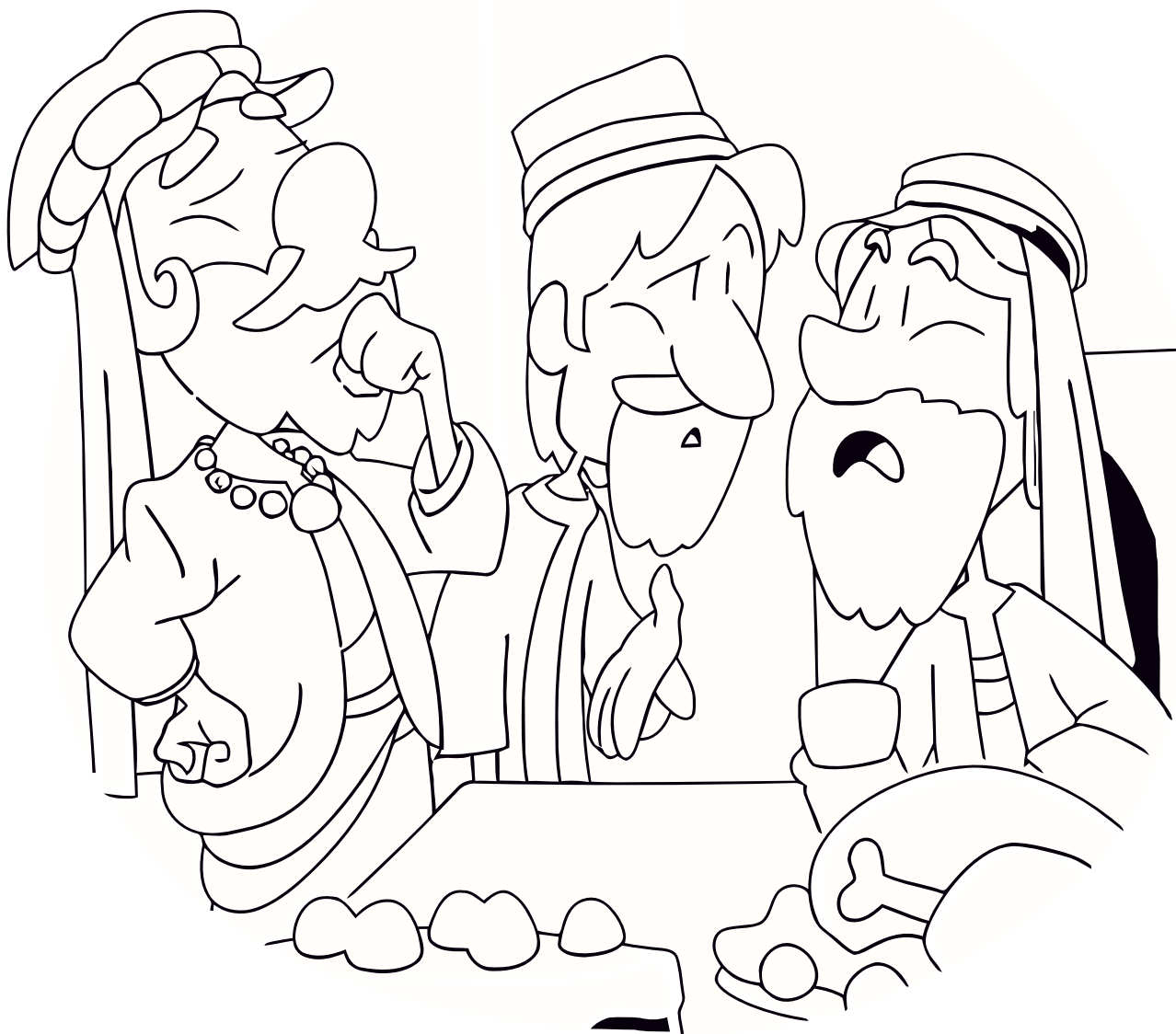
Luke 14:11 ESV

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.



Luke 14:11 ESV

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.



You are
Invited!

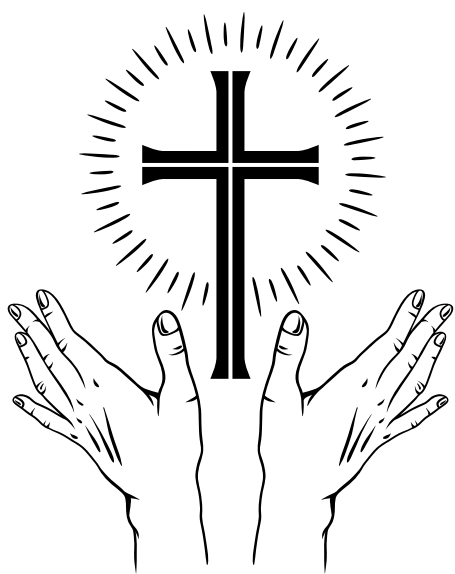
Come
Join Us!

Come
Join Us!

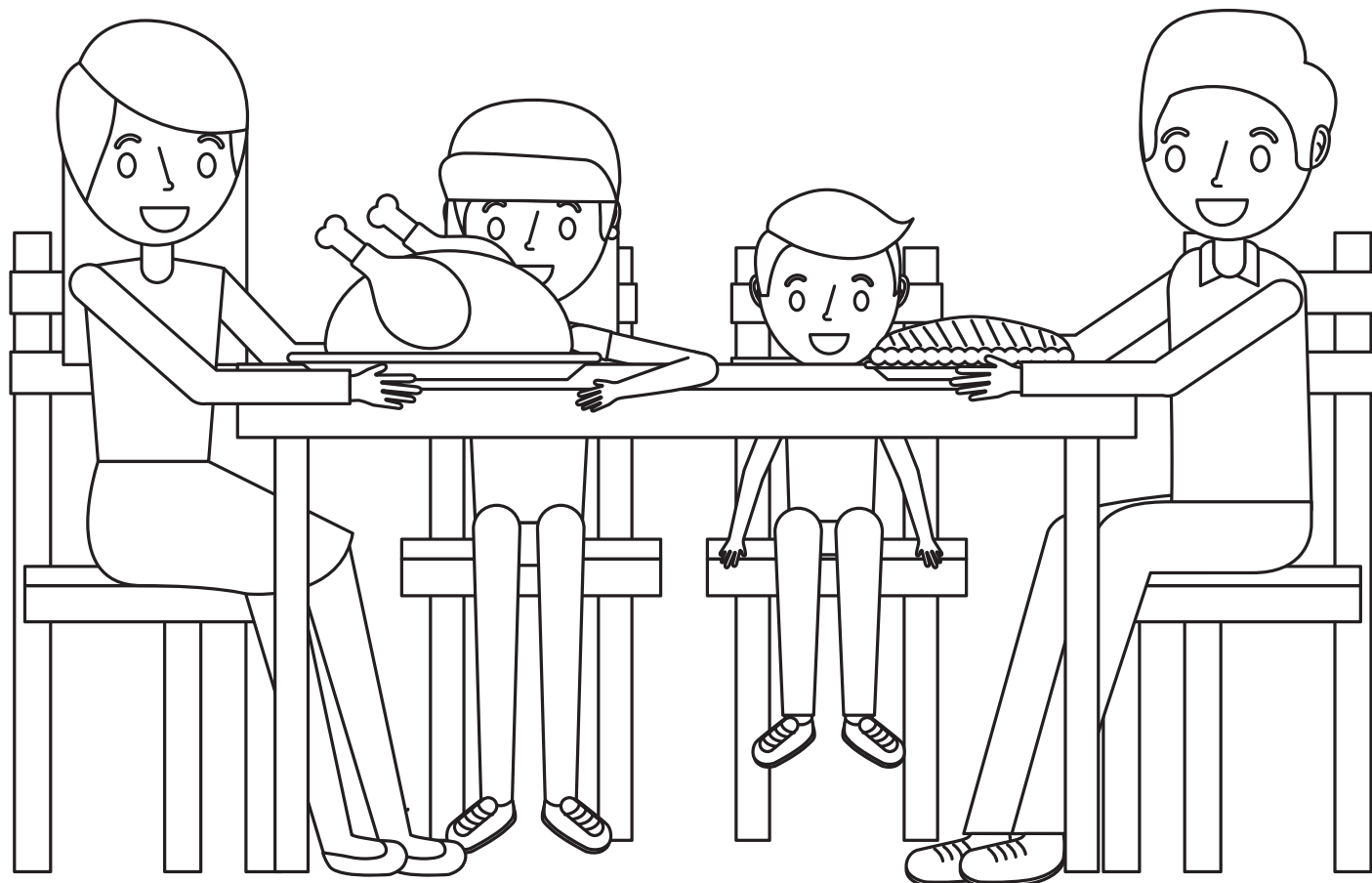
You are
Invited!

Coloring!

Directions: Color the given picture.



YOU ARE
INVITED



Word Search!

Directions: Find the words given in the word search.

Luke 14:11 ESV For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

B Y G Z Q T F C L E I L K P R D I D U O
E A Q S M W J X O G N U Y F O Z C W O H
V T F K A B F D X F K D C R O H R P T V
E N U O O C X G B C H O D T Z V G J B F
R R Z X T R P W R X W F Q L V P I U N S
Y Y D J K S L C O W M B F R Q G K I W D
O D N I C R R Y W N F K Z Y O B J M A E
N Q F I Z R F U T X S N D E W T X B I W
E Y D J Q S W R O F D A V G W B S F G Q
T D R H E X W F K P J M U U K J E J Y B
A I X J B D Z W D L Q O H I X Z W C C O
M R T O N W W Z W H E K L V E E N O C M
B U W P R P I D N J D N C C I X F B E A
L B D H A C I I H E Q K S H V T A F C H
S V W B W Q A F E I X F M G I H W L Q V
J C X V E G B P C B I A V O E M F K T F
Y Z H U M B L E S L C J L O K I S V A S
X W C J P C M U I D P D Z T F K T E N A
I I S H N T R R A H U M B L E D Z U L R
T J N K F M T U Q L F T T Z G D A H Z F

WORD BANK

EVERYONE
EXALTS

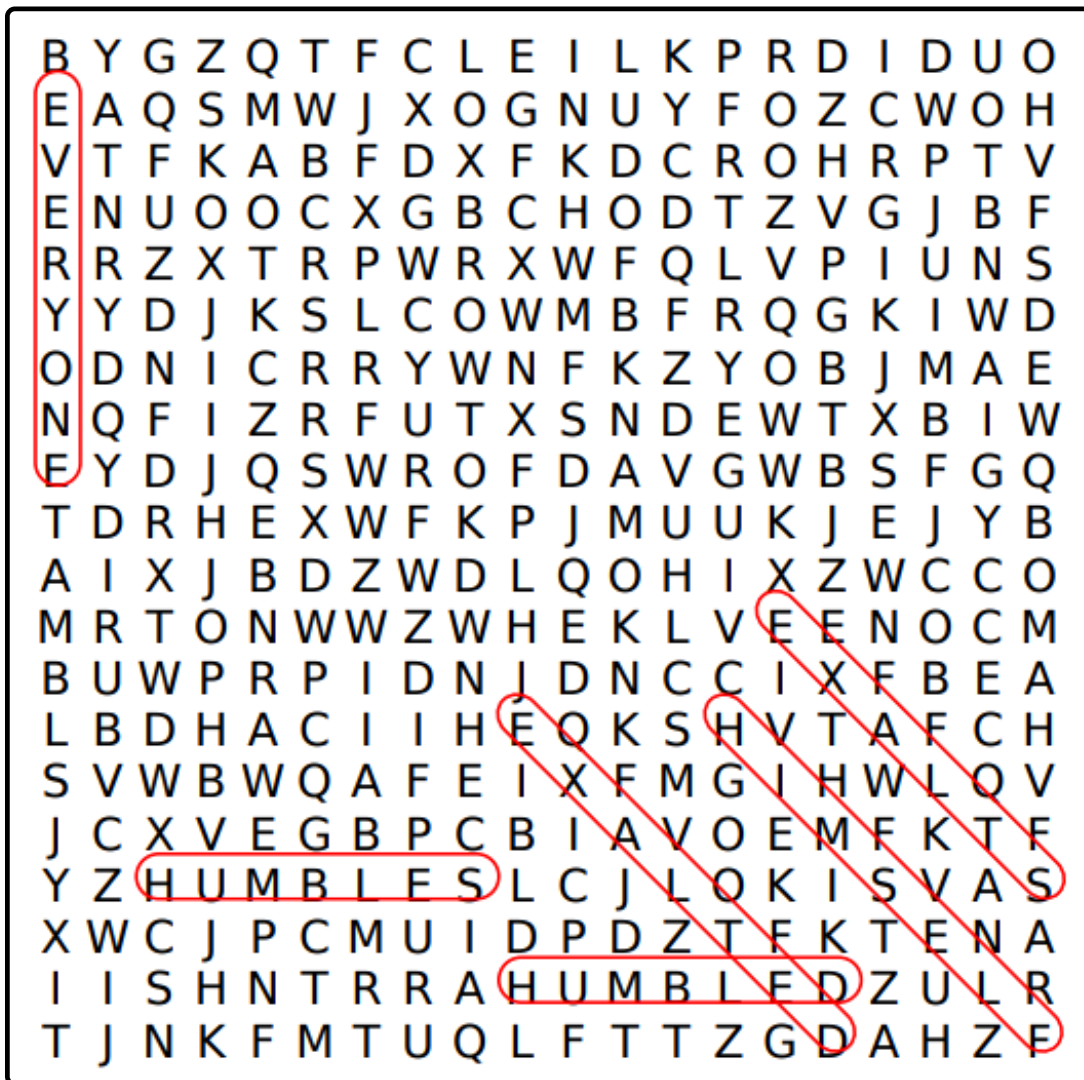
HUMBLED
HUMBLES

HIMSELF
EXALTED

Answer Key

Directions: Find the words given in the word search.

Luke 14:11 ESV For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.



WORD BANK

EVERYONE
EXALTS

HUMBLED
HUMBLES

HIMSELF
EXALTED