

News Story Summary

In honor of their 100-year anniversary, the National Parks Service offered 10 days in 2017 as free days (four of which are just around the corner!). Those parks that have admission fees waived them on January 16, February 20, April 15-16 and 22-23, August 25, September 30, and November 11-12. These special days are set aside because they are national holidays or special Park days. Other fees like those for lodging, camping, tours, and concessions are still in effect.

The National Parks stated, “Fee-free days make parks accessible to more people... [which] provide a great opportunity to visit a new place or an old favorite.”

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “Fee entrance days”.)

Focus Attention

To supplement the focus attention idea share the news story and ask: *If you were able, would you be open to such an invitation? If so, do you think you would need further credentials or would an invitation from the National Parks Service be enough?* Explain to the class members that in Jesus’ parable, the people invited to this important wedding knew the invitation was from the king.

Weddings appeared often in the New Testament because they were highly significant events. Jesus made it clear in the parable that the invitation was extended from an important person to attend a momentous event. The clear implication is that those who refuse His Father’s invitation are culpable. Sadly, many people would readily accept an invitation like that in the news story, but pass over one from God Himself.

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind group members of the news summary and ask: *What difference is there between an invitation that is voluntary and one that carries the certain promise of judgment?* Then ask them: *Would a few of you share with the class what led you to accept the Lord’s offer of salvation through Jesus?* Lead the class members to list ways they will communicate the urgency of the invitation to those who do not believe. Close by leading in a time of thanksgiving for God’s great invitation and that the class might be open to opportunities to share that may arise.