Date: 9/10/2016

Title: A Party in Heaven

Theme: Heaven throws a party when one sinner repents.

Object: Party paraphernalia from Hawaii night.

Text: Luke 15:23-24 (NKJV) 23And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it,* and let us eat and be merry; 24for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. [They had a party!]

Hey, have you heard the news? There’s a party at our house tonight. And you’re invited!!!

And it’s not just any old party, It’s Hawaii night! It’s a Hawaiian Luau! That means it’s a feast!

We’re going to have fried rice and Lo Mein from Hawaiian Isle. There will be Hawaiian drinks with umbrellas in them.

Wear your flowered shirt or blouse. There will be flowers for your hair and lays for around your neck [show lays] and a grass skirt that you can wear [show skirt].

Don Ho will be providing the Hawaiian music with his ukulele.

And after we eat and listen to the music, we’ll have the hula hoop contest.

Can you do the hula hoop? I’ve been practicing. See if you can beat me at keeping the hula hoop going.

Then we will play games and have as much fun as we can.

Do you like parties? I like parties too.

And you know what’s amazing? God likes parties too!

When Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin, He ended them by saying there is great rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repents.

It is like when a sinner accepts Jesus and asks for forgiveness of his sins, they throw a party in heaven to celebrate.

And Jesus makes it even clearer in the story he told about the prodigal son.

Jesus said there was a certain man that had two sons.

The younger son was a prodigal. That means he was bad. He reached an age when he didn’t want to listen to his father any more.

He didn’t want to work on the farm anymore. He didn’t want his father telling him what to do. He wanted to go off and live by himself and be his own boss.

So he rebelled against his father. He took a third of his father’s possessions and moved away into a far off country and spent all his money on wild living.

But then there was a famine in that country and there wasn’t any food, and he didn’t have any money left, and without money, he didn’t have any friends either.

And the only job he could find was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry, he wanted to eat the pigs’ food.

He began to think that he had really made a bad decision. Everybody in his father’s house had plenty to eat, and he was starving to death feeding pigs.

And he was sorry that he had rebelled against his father.

So he went back home.

And his father saw him coming and ran to meet him.

The son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight and am no longer worthy to be called your son.” He was going to ask his father to just let him be a servant.

But the father was so happy that his son had repented, confessed his sin, and come back home that he threw a party to celebrate.

And Jesus is telling us that’s what God is like.

When we say we’re sorry for our sins and ask God to forgive us, He not only forgives us, He throws a party for us in heaven.

I hope you’ll come to the party tonight. But more importantly, I hope you’ll ask Jesus to forgive your sins so they can have a party in heaven for you!

Would you like to do that?