Date: 5/27/17

Title: The Invitation

Theme: Jesus extends to you the greatest invitation in the world.

Object: CJ & Jenna’s wedding invitation and a picture of Jesus called The Invitation.”

Text: Matthew 11:28 (NKJV) Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

What a wonderful invitation! Jesus invites us to come to Him and find rest.

Whatever seems like a heavy load in life, Jesus will make it lighter.

Many people are burdened down by sin. They feel guilty for all the wrong things they have done.

But Jesus died on the cross for our sins so we can be forgiven and our heavy burden taken away.

I want to tell you about an invitation that we received in the mail. Do you want to see it?

[Read invitation. Read participants and order of service.]

It was a beautiful wedding and we had a really good time.

I am so glad we got this invitation, inviting us to the wedding.

And I’m so glad we accepted the invitation and attended the wedding.

It is really nice to be invited.

Now I have a picture with me this morning. Would you like to see it?

Who do you think it is? (Jesus)

Maybe Jesus looked like this, but maybe not.

Do you know that nobody really knows what Jesus looked like.

Lots of people saw him when he lived on earth 2,000 years ago, but there weren’t any cameras then, and nobody drew His picture.

So when an artist draws a picture of Jesus, he draws what he thinks Jesus might have looked like.

The artist who painted this picture of Jesus is Nathan Greene.

He is a very famous artist, and he gives a name to each of the pictures he draws.

Do you know what he named this picture? He calls it “The Invitation.”

What do you think? Is that a good name?

Does it look like Jesus is inviting you to be his friend?

Does it look like he wants to take you hand and let you sit on his lap?

It reminds me of our bible verse this morning where Jesus gives us a wonderful invitation: “Come unto me all you that are tired and weighed down and I will give you rest.”

You don’t have to worry, you don’t have to be afraid, you don’t have to feel bad because you have let God down and disobeyed Him.

Jesus invites you to be His friend.

He wants to be your Savior and boss, and forgive you for your sins.

Getting an invitation to a wedding is wonderful, and going to a wedding is even more wonderful.

But nothing is better than getting an invitation from Jesus, and finding the rest that only He can give.

How many would like to say “yes” to the invitation from Jesus to be your Savior and friend?