

# International Food Festival

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This event can be a small social or big social. It can also be used as a fundraiser for missions, as people pay for a sample of each item.

In this program, I have selected an assortment of dishes to make a meal. However, if you choose to make this a big social event, you will want to expand your selection of countries and food choices.

**Arrangements:** Have food tasting booths set up representing various countries:

China -	Egg rolls
Japan -	Sushi
Hungary -	Cabbage Rolls
Mexico -	Quick Quesadillas
Jamaica -	Beef Patty
Portugal -	Sweet Rice Pudding (Arroz Doce)

Have decorations representative of each country (eg. maps, flags)

## Introduction:

No matter from what country we originate, eating is a very important aspect; and socializing around the table is an important aspect of relationship building. As we learn about each country, and share in a sample of the tradition food of that country, let us be ever mindful that God has blessed us with abundance, and let us be willing to give to help others.

**Grace:** (Say at the beginning, as we will eat our way through each item, as each country is highlighted).

**China:** The People's Republic of China is the most populous country in the world with over 1.3 billion people. The ancient Chinese civilization is known as one of the world's earliest civilizations. The capital of China is Beijing and the largest city is Shanghai. Its official language is Mandarin. There is a large variety of Chinese cuisine that dates back to the time of the emperors who were known to serve 100 dishes per meal. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People's\\_Republic\\_of\\_China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China)). Rice is the major food source for the people of China, along with noodles and tofu. In most of the dishes, food is prepared in bite-sized pieces, ready for direct pick up and eating.



**Food Sample:** Egg rolls

**Japan:** Japan is made up of a total of 6, 582 islands in East Asia. It is sometimes referred to as the “Land of the Rising Sun.” It has the world’s tenth-largest population with over 127 million people. Its capital and largest city is Tokyo. Its national language is Japanese, but there is no official language. Historically, the primary ingredient of Japanese cuisine is Japanese rice (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan>). However, noodles is also used as an alternative to rice. The people eat a lot of seafood and their dishes are usually low in fat, but high in salt content.



**Food Sample: Sushi**

**Hungary:** The Republic of Hungary is a land-locked country in Central Europe and has a population of approximately 10 million people. The capital and largest city is Budapest. The official language is Hungarian. Hungary is one of the thirty most popular tourist destinations of the world, attracting 8.6 million tourists per year. Hungarian cuisine is a prominent feature of its culture, as well as hospitality. Hungarian food is often spicy due to their use of hot paprika (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary>).



**Food Sample: Cabbage Rolls**

**Mexico:** Covering almost 2 million square kilometers, Mexico is the fifth-largest country in the Americas. With a population of approximately 111 million people, it is the 11th most populous country in the world. Its capital and largest city is Mexico City. The official language of Mexico is Spanish. A vast amount of tourists come to Mexico from the United States and Canada. Mexican cuisine is known for its intense and varied flavors, colorful decoration, and variety of spices (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico>). The staples of Mexican food is corn and beans. Next to corn, rice is the most popular grain.



**Food Sample: Quick Quesadillas**

**Jamaica:** Jamaica is an island nation and is the third largest island located in the Caribbean Sea. It’s name means the “Land of Wood and Water” or the “Land of Springs”. It has a population of 2.8 million people and is a part of the British Commonwealth under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The capital and largest city of Jamaica is Kingston. The official language is English, but it also has a national language of Jamaican Patios (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica>). Jamaican cuisine incorporates a mixture of flavors from various cultures brought to the island from elsewhere. Also, a wide variety of seafood, tropical fruit, and meats are available.



**Food Sample: Beef Patty**

**Portugal:** Portugal is the westernmost country of Europe. Its capital and largest city is Lisbon. The official language is Portuguese. It has a population of 10.6 million people. Portugal is a seafaring nation and the people eat a lot of dried cod fish which is called bacalhau, and they make a large variety of dishes from this one fish (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal>).

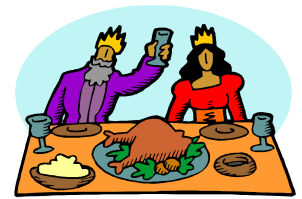


**Food Sample:** Sweet Rice Pudding (Arroz Doce)

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 14: 7-24

**Devotional:** Feasting in the Kingdom of God

Have you ever been invited to a banquet and upon your arrival you were unsure where to sit? Or perhaps, you have been at a banquet where there were name tags at each place setting so there was no confusion as to who was to sit where. In Luke 14, there were no name tags placed around the tables, nor does there seem to be an uncertainty about where each person is to sit: each guest wants to sit in the place of honor—close to the one giving the feast. This place of honor signified a special relationship between the host and the guest, and it elevated the status of the guest before all others present at the feast.



If you or I were to sit in the place of honor, a place reserved for someone else, how embarrassing it would be to have the host come to us and ask us to move because we were seated in the wrong place! However, if we sat in another spot, and then someone came and said we were to be seated as the guest of honor, how special we would feel, especially as we took the place of honor in front of all the other guests!

Numerous times, especially in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus speaks about the ‘first and the last’. In Luke 14, once again he seizes the occasion to present the truth about the Kingdom of God, where the first shall be last and the last shall be first. He points out that the initial invitation to the great banquet in the Kingdom of Heaven had been extended to the Israelite nation—chosen people of God, but many chose not to accept the invitation because they considered other things to be more important than the banquet. He also makes them aware that because of their refusal to attend, the invitation has been broadened to include those considered to be the marginalized of society—the sick, the poor, the blind, the lame.

In Luke 14, we are reminded that there is room for all in the Kingdom of God; however, there are those who refuse to accept the invitation to the great banquet, but for some reason continue to think that on the day of reckoning they can freely choose to enter the banquet and sit at the place of honor. Jesus tells them they are in for a surprise: even though they were invited first, their refusal has now made them last; and those whom they consider last in society, will now be first in the Kingdom of God.

We share together in the wonderful foods at our International Food Festival. Our participation in this specifically reminds us of two things: what a wonderful day it will be when we share in the International Festival in the Kingdom of God! Let us never neglect to share the Gospel with others and invite them to the table—to invite them to know Christ and share in the great banquet He has prepared for all those who accept the invitation to become a part of the family of God.

**Song Suggestions:**

<i>They shall come from the East</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 170)
<i>All have need of God's Salvation</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 824)
<i>Christ for the World, we sing</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 825)
<i>In Christ there is no east or west</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 826)
<i>We are witnesses for Jesus</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 832)