**The Parable of the Wedding Banquet – Matthew 22:1-14 Leader Notes**

**HOOK**

**1. How many wedding parties have you been in? Do you have any funny wedding stories in your history?**

**2. What would your dream wedding look like? Destination wedding? Big/small? Outdoors, in a church? What kind of food would you serve?**

**3. Do you like going to weddings and the reception afterwards? Why or why not?**

**BOOK/LOOK Read Matthew 22:1-14**

**4. In your experience, is the kingdom of heaven more like a wedding or a funeral? Is John 10:10 real in your experience as a Christ follower?**

**5. What aspect of Jesus’ kingdom is richly expressed by the image of a wedding banquet?** (Joy, celebration, centered in the person of Jesus Christ, gifts, opportunity to develop a relationship with the king)

**6. How does inattentiveness (Matt.22:5) negatively impact our relationship with God? Why do the people you know refuse to come to Jesus? What’s the biggest excuse?**

**7. What were the consequences for Israel’s rejection of God as king? (Matt.22:7)**

**8. Who gets invited to Jesus’ royal wedding in Matt.22:10?** (The good and the bad.)

**9. What wedding clothes are required to attend Jesus’ messianic wedding banquet? Read 2 Cor. 5:21 and Galatians 3:26,27.** (The righteousness of Christ).

**TOOK**

**10. Does getting an invitation to Jesus’ wedding banquet make us worthy?** (No, it makes us fortunate recipients of grace. How we respond to God’s invitation makes us worthy.)

**11. How has the invitation of Rev. 19:9 changed your life? Made you feel?**

**12. Practically speaking, how do we accept the invitation of Jesus to the banquet of the kingdom of heaven?**

**13. If the kingdom of heaven is really more like a wedding banquet than a funeral, why do believers struggle to invite others into the kingdom?**