

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 2nd March 2025

TITLE:	Parable of the Wedding Feast . Matthew 22:1-14
THEME:	The invitation to be part of God's Kingdom is open to all. Not all choose it.
AIM:	Becoming a Christian is a choice and requires faith and a change of heart.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This is the second of two parables together about God's Kingdom. The first was the tenants in the Vineyard. Here the emphasis is slightly different than last week. This is about the open invitation to people to be part of the Kingdom. Firstly to Israel, invited first to be part of God's Kingdom, but they refused to respond to God's repeated invitations. Then, after He has punished them He invites everyone else. But there are requirements... new clothes. This is a symbol of repentance and change. Faith bringing a change of heart.

WARM UP

Reveal the pictures of the worlds craziest weddings! What do they think of them? Have they been to a wedding? What was it like? How about a banquet or massive party?

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1: Read the Parable . Matthew 22:1-14.

1. Who are the characters meant to be?

Father, Son, initial guests, second guests, servants/messengers

2. What is the obvious message of this parable? Discuss with a partner and then feedback to the group

Key teaching point: Like last week this parable is an allegory. The situation and characters represent things in real life. God and Jesus are the Father and Son. The initial guests invited are Israel, the secondary guests are Gentiles (us) and the servants are the prophets.

The most obvious message is that God invites everyone to His Kingdom, but not everyone chooses to come. Some miss out because they are too busy with their own lives.

Activity 2. Excuses or acceptance?

1. What is it like to be invited to someone else's celebration or party? What does it mean?

2. Why do we sometimes make excuses not to attend? What excuses do we make?

3. You have been invited by God to be part of His Kingdom, this means He cares for you and loves you. How does that make you feel? How should you respond?

Key teaching point. Being invited is a sign that you are valued and loved. God has invited all people

to be part of His Kingdom. Yet for some reason many people reject the invitation. Our lives, relationships and work seem more important than being part of God's eternal Kingdom. People will and do miss out on this amazing invitation because they are caught up with their own concerns. We should be overwhelmed and excited to be invited by God, the creator of the universe, to eat with Him and be in His presence!

Activity 3. Read v 5-7 again. God's response to rejecting His invitation.

1. How would you react if none of your friends responded to your special party invitation?
2. Was God's reaction just? Why?
3. God does not abandon His party plans, what does He do?

Key teaching: God had repeatedly invited His special people Israel to take part in God's Kingdom (The Wedding Feast). The Covenants He made with Israel are the invitations, as is The Law of God. Yet Israel had repeatedly rejected God and done their own thing. He had warned them and warned them. Ultimately God exiled His people and destroyed Jerusalem (586BC) and this also looks forward to AD 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans and Temple worship was ended. A new era began with all people from every nation worshipping God—The Church. God acted justly in punishing Israel because they repeatedly behaved in unjust ways, ignoring and breaking God's law. He then offers the opportunity to others who will respond!

Activity 4: The right clothes

1. Why was the man thrown out of the feast in v11-13? (see note in resources section)
2. What do you think wearing the right clothes is really all about?
3. What would happen if you turned up to a wedding in your DIY, paint covered clothes or your dirty sports kit? Why is wrong to do so? (disrespect, shows lack of understanding of the importance)

Key teaching: Wedding clothes are a picture of Grace and Forgiveness in which we are clothed when we accept Jesus' invitation to His Kingdom. There is only ONE way to be part of it, by confessing Jesus as Lord and having sin forgiven. The man represents someone trying to be part of God's Kingdom with out that. People who think they're Christian but are not really! They have not clothed themselves in His righteousness, they are doing it in their own righteousness!

TAKEAWAY

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, Revelation 7:9 ... **a picture of our future!**

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

NB: in ancient culture in Israel/ Middle East the clothes worn at a wedding were part of the decorations. They were often designed by the Father or Groom and given to guests to wear. In some places this still happens. It is a show of disrespect to turn up NOT wearing