

YOU'RE INVITED, BUT DRESS APPROPRIATELY (THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET)

Matthew 22:1–14

Matthew 22:9

“Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.” **Matthew 22:9**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

Every little girl dreams of being in a wedding, particularly, being the bride. The fascination of weddings seems to move right into the teen years with most girls as they dream of the fairytale that will someday become their own story.

If you've ever been to a wedding, you know that most brides and their mothers stress over the details of the ceremony and the reception. Everything has to be perfect in order to have the perfect wedding day.

Read Matthew 22:1–14. Jesus tells the parable of the king who hosts a wedding feast for his son. When the invited guests refuse to come, the king turns to those least likely

to be invited. But there are conditions. The guests must be dressed appropriately.

The mindset of so many teenagers today can be summed up in a recent restaurant commercial ad, which says, “No rules. Just right.™” We're living in a generation that values rules and restrictions less and less. Nevertheless, in God's Kingdom, there are conditions—namely, that we show up at the wedding feast clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In other words, there is no right without the rule of God, and His ways are not our ways.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, the family comes together and thinks of popular commercial slogans. Then, each family member must think of a slogan, and the other family members must match the slogan with the particular ad. (*Parents get ready: Your kids will be better at this than you.*)

Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Banquet from Matthew 22:1–14. Then, a family member asks: **Of what coming event is this parable symbolic? Why do you believe the king was so hard on the guest who showed up without proper wedding clothes? What are the wedding clothes that we are supposed to show up wearing when we arrive at heaven's gates—the great wedding feast?**

Transform . . .

A family member reads: **How would you use the commercial phrase that says, “No rules. Just right™” with this parable? Does it match God's way of thinking, or is it the exact opposite? How so? When we show up for the wedding feast in heaven, we are to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ. How can you communicate this truth to others?**

Pray that your family will recognize the need to share the message of hope with others.