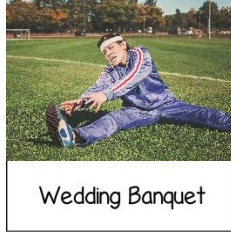


# God's Story Your Story

March 8, 2015



*Matthew 22:9-10*  
*Faith 5 – A pattern for shaping a life of faith*

## Share:

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**Read:** Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading. *[Jesus said,] "[Then the king said,] 'Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests."* Matthew 22:9-10

## Talk:

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Who are the insiders and who are the outsiders in your community? What happens when the lines get blurred? Who benefits when insiders and outsiders begin to work together? Who is hurt?
- How is Jesus' parable of the wedding banquet good news for you? How is it bad news? Which do you prefer to see: the good or the bad?

## Pray:

Inviting God, you welcome all people into your kingdom. Teach us to honor you with respect and love, for the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

## Bless:

God who keeps inviting, help us hear your invitation to live as the word suggests. Amen.

## Some Background

The king in the parable of the wedding banquet was a generous king, but also one who refused to be taken advantage of. Initially he invited family and friends to the banquet, but they would not come. This may have been a parallel to the Jewish leaders who refused to walk in God's ways, even as they were claiming to do just that. The king then invited everyone to come, perhaps an open invitation from God to come into God's kingdom. A twist near the end shows one man, improperly dressed for the banquet, thrown out of the party. This may have been to indicate that God's people were expected to behave in a manner fitting of guests of the king; to treat one another with kindness and respect.

## Follow the teachings and actions of Jesus. See how his actions angered and frightened those in power.

Sunday, Matthew 22:1-14, *Wedding Banquet*

Monday, Psalm 45:6-7, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 20:17-34, *Works of Jesus*

Wednesday, Matthew 21:12-22, *Jesus Cleanses the Temple*

Thursday, Matthew 21:23-27, *The Authority of Jesus Questioned*

Friday, Matthew 21:28-32, *Parables of Jesus*

Saturday, Matthew 21:33-46, *Parables of Jesus*