



Week beginning October 11th

## Responding to God's Invitation

### Opening Questions

- How do you respond when you receive a party invitation? Are you excited or does your heart sink?
- When were you first aware of Jesus' invitation to become part of his kingdom? Did you respond immediately or did you take a little while?

### Getting into the text

Read Matthew 22:1-14

- In this parable who does the king represent? And the son?
- How did the first groups of people who were invited respond? Who might they represent?
- What was the king's reaction to their refusal? Who did he then invite?
- How would you describe those who eventually came to the banquet?

- What do you think their wedding clothes signified? Why was the man who was not dressed in wedding clothes thrown out?

### Applying the Bible to your life

- What does this parable teach us about God's kingdom and how we take up our place within it?
- How would you answer someone who says they will be part of God's kingdom because they have led a good and moral life?

### Something to pray about

Paul wrote, '**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.**' (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- Give praise and thanks to God for his grace and mercy in welcoming you into his kingdom.
- Pray for those you know who need to respond to God's invitation for themselves.