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# Matthew Chapter 22

## ☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

- a. What is the most fun you've ever had at a party? Who all was there? What did you do? What do you think made it so much fun?

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- b. What do you think are some of the best ways to show love to other people? List at least 10.

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## ☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this chapter Jesus tells the parable of the great feast and He also talks about how the “Most Important Commandment” is to love one another. In the parable all the original guests—whom the king and his son must have know well—refused to come to the wedding feast. They were shown love and respect in the form of the invitation but they rudely turned away—and some even killed the messengers with the invitations. Then love and respect was shown to total strangers by being invited—most of whom showed up properly dressed and behaving themselves well—showing appreciation.

Why do you think the “friends” turned away and the strangers were grateful? Do you think this may be an illustration of the Jews rejecting Jesus and the tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners accepting Him? Why/why not?

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Why do you think the Pharisees started plotting how to arrest Jesus after He told this parable? Do you think this is the perfect illustration of what Jesus may have been trying to say? Why/why not?

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How do you think the religious leaders had gotten to such a low point in Jesus' day that they would be so devious, cruel and unloving? Explain.

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How does a person get to that point today? Explain.

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What would you imagine the home life for these corrupt leaders must be like? Do you think there is any love in their lives at all or do their actions show a total lack of love in their experience? Explain.

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### 3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think about all the relationships you have with others—both good and bad. Are you better at affirming the good relationships or trying to improve the bad ones? Why do you think that is? Try to think of ways that you can do both—show gratitude to those that love you (rather than taking it for granted), and show love to those that you find difficult to deal with in an effort to build better relationships.

### 4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray and thank God for all the people in your life that show you love (by name—make a list if you like). Pray for God's blessing and love to be seen and felt in their lives.
- b. Pray for "your enemies" as the Bible instructs. Ask for Jesus to help you turn your "enemies" into friends. Pray for God's blessing and love to be seen and felt in their lives as well.

### 5. Outreach Idea

Make plans to do or say something nice for all the people who play a significant role in your life—weather it is positive or negative—try to be impartial. Perhaps you could write a note and attach it to a small gift for each one to find anonymously.