

**Sermon Based Small Group  
Additional Resource**

**Sermon Title: "God's Hand"  
(Sermon Series: "2011: The Year You Make Contact")**

**Week of January 16, 2011**

**Leader: If you or your group would like to look deeper into wedding imagery used in the Bible, here are some Scripture texts to consider:**

**God's people as his bride**

**Psalm 45:10-17**

Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear: Forget your people and your father's house. The king is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift, men of wealth will seek your favor. All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold. In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her and are brought to you. They are led in with joy and gladness; they enter the palace of the king. Your sons will take the place of your fathers; you will make them princes throughout the land. I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

**Ezekiel 16:8-14**

'Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine. 'I bathed you with water and washed the blood from you and put ointments on you. I clothed you with an embroidered dress and put leather sandals on you. I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with costly garments. I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck, and I put a ring on your nose, ear-rings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. So you were adorned with gold and silver; your clothes were of fine linen and costly fabric and embroidered cloth. Your food was fine flour, honey and olive oil. You became very beautiful and rose to be a queen. And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendor I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign LORD.

**Revelation 21:2**

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

**Revelation 19:7**

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

**The wedding banquet**

**Matthew 22** is referred to as the Parable of the Wedding Banquet

v. 2: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a **wedding banquet** for his son.

v. 4: Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the **wedding banquet**.'

v. 8: Then he said to his servants, 'The **wedding banquet** is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.'

**Matthew 25:10**

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the **wedding banquet**. And the door was shut.

**Luke 12:36**

like servants waiting for their master to return from a **wedding banquet**, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.