

SETTING UP A GALILEAN WEDDING

Here you go...!

“The Galilean Wedding” is a 75-minute presentation that recreates a first century Galilean wedding. As your guests enter the room, they enter a different world in a different age. These instructions help you setup a dramatic environment that enhances the message of this presentation. Certain simple nuances should be carefully adhered to, such as the shape and lowered elevation of the main table, subtle room lighting and the cast of twelve who will be “dining” at the main table during the presentation.

Contents of this packet include:

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- What (and Whom) You Will Need
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Please read these instructions thoroughly!

Blessings!

The Wedding Party

One of the most exciting features of the Galilean Wedding is the arrival of the wedding party. This noisy procession of revelers bursting into the room carrying the bride, blowing shofars, holding lamps and joyfully shouting is a true grand entrance, and kicks off the presentation. The wedding party is made up of 12 volunteers. These people also end up sitting or reclining on the stage floor at the “triclinium” table and help with various demonstrations during the event.

The cast should be selected by the person in charge and will need to meet with me for special instructions **1 ½ hours prior to starting time.**

Wedding party cast members should:

- Be able to recline on the floor around a triclinium table for 1 ¼ hours (chairs are allowed for any cast member who can't sit long on the floor)
- Be willing to assist with other simple demonstrations during the presentation
- Be willing to wear clothing/costumes appropriate to the event (you provide if available, and I bring headscarves and yarmulkes when costumes are unavailable)
- Be willing to shout and act excited during our ancient wedding processional

Other helpful items, if you have them are:

- Tambourines
- Djembe-type drums with over-the-shoulder slings
- A sturdy chair, preferably wood, that can be lifted and carried with the “bride” seated on it (only needed if I fly in, otherwise I bring a real litter)

What (and whom) you will need...

- **12 volunteer cast members**, 6 men and 6 women, who can arrive 1 ½ hours before the presentation starts. The cast should consist of:
 - **a younger man and woman to play the bride and groom** (the woman needs to be “petite” as she will be carried in on a chair)
 - **2 mature men** to play the fathers of the bride and bridegroom
 - **2 men** with good, strong backs and knees, able to lift at least 60 lbs. each
 - **1 additional man** who will act as a groomsman
 - **5 additional women**—bridesmaids and the mothers of the bride and groom
- **One triclinium table**, lowered, with table cloths, cushions or pillows to surround the table (I bring table runners and olive-oil lamps, though you are welcome to embellish the table your own ancient-looking decorations)
- **Finger foods** in bowls or baskets and fresh fruit just laying on the table. Suggested food: pita bread, nuts, olives, pickles, hummus, dried fruit (dates, figs, raisins, etc.). The food is to keep the cast's hands moving during the presentation.
- **Water and/or purple grape juice** for the cast to drink while reclining around the table

- **Costumes are not necessary, but a big plus.** If you have them, feel free to have your cast wear them. If you don't have costumes, suggest to your cast to wear white or light earth tones. The bride should be wear as much color as possible.

Setting Up a Triclinium Table

A "Triclinium" is a short, three-sided ancient banquet table. It was "U" shaped and just inches off the floor. To simulate this ancient table, assemble triclinium using 3 rectangular tables with folding or removable legs. Plywood sheets, doors, etc. have also been used.

Assembling the Triclinium

You can use a variety of table-size combinations to achieve a good effect. Using two 8 x 2.5 ft. tables for the right and left wings and one 6 x 2.5 ft. table for the middle section (like the photo below) looks best. Others have used three 8 ft. tables to seat more people, or three 6 ft. tables.



With the table legs folded up, arrange them into a "U" shape, elevate each table length by placing it on 2 cardboard fruit boxes (very sturdy, from your local grocer) or a similar base. The lowered table will furnish an ancient look.

Arrange the triclinium with the open end of the "U" facing the audience.

Table Preparation

- **Use white, rectangular DISPOSABLE table clothes** (available at Costco or Sam's Club in 6-packs – cheap!). Linen tablecloths are also fine, but will need to be laundered.
- **Place the table runners** (I bring) down the center of each table for a Middle-Eastern look.

Room Preparation

- To achieve the very best effect, **low room light is recommended.** Dim light in the background along with my olive oil lamps enhances the ambience of the room. If available, shine a small overhead spotlight on the area where I will be speaking.
- **Good air conditioning** and air circulation is a must.
- **Suggestion:** Persian style rugs on the floor make a beautiful and exotic effect. Note: food may get spilled on them.

Setting up your room, step by step

- Plan on about 2 hours for room set up and food preparation. Clean up usually takes less than an hour.
- Assemble and place the table.
- Place tablecloths and runners on the assembled triclinium.
- Place the bowls and baskets of food *randomly* on the tables for a colorful, cluttered effect. Put the fresh fruit right on the table for an edible garnish. Place one bowl/basket of each food item on each wing of the triclinium.
- Place three water carafes or pitchers on each wing the table.
- Place cups and napkins at each place setting on the outside edge of the table. If you want to simulate wine, set additional cups of grape juice with the water cups.
- I provide the oil lamps for the table, which are lit shortly before starting time.
- Check ventilation/air conditioners, making sure they are properly set.

And finally...

Covering the Cost

If you ask for donations, consider making an offering box available after the presentation—a pastor or leader can make an appropriate announcement. Concerning an honorarium, all my presentations are on a love gift basis, and without obligation.

Resource Table

I have books about the Wedding along with other books and DVDs. A table for the resources is helpful, and is self-service, unless a volunteer is available to assist.

One more thing...

A Galilean Wedding can be prepared and presented on short notice, but it is better not to have to rush. If possible, give yourself and your people about a month to make all the arrangements and delegate responsibilities. Either way, do not be intimidated by these instructions! It is far simpler to prepare than you might think. So pray, have a meeting with your helpers, and watch God work!

NOW—if you want to do a full ancient feast with your Galilean wedding (just like the Biblical Dinner), [read the Biblical Dinner Setup Instructions](#) and adapt the feast to your liking. Please note that a meal at a Galilean Wedding doesn't enhance the content like it does the Biblical Dinner, though food is *always* good...!

Blessings!

Galilean Wedding FAQ's

Is the Galilean Wedding a Passover Seder or real wedding?

No. The Galilean Wedding is a non-denominational presentation that interactively demonstrates elements of a first century regional wedding, focusing on its many powerful and enlightening (though little noticed) references found throughout the New Testament.

How can my church or organization have a Galilean Wedding?

If you or your church/organization would like to host a Galilean Wedding, just email me to request a calendar date. You can check my speaking schedule on the BDM home page. I highly recommend you consider dates other than the Easter/Passover Holidays—the Galilean Wedding is effective year-round.

How much does it cost to present a Galilean Wedding?

The Galilean Wedding is presented on a love-gift basis only. It is my desire that anyone wishing to experience this ministry not miss out due to financial burden.

What does my church or organization need to do to prepare for a Galilean Wedding?

- If you decide to provide a meal with the Wedding presentation, your church or organization will typically arrange for any food and supplies, because you will know best where to obtain items locally and at the best prices.
- If your church is within driving distance—about six hours away or less from Sacramento, CA—I can bring nearly all the needed supplies—bowls, baskets, table runners, rugs, lamps and bases, the bride's "litter", etc., for the presentation. I don't provide costumes, but can bring head scarves and yarmulkes for a more Biblical look. If I need to fly to your area, I will be limited to bringing only a few necessary props.

How far will Jay travel to present a Biblical Wedding Feast?

I will gladly travel to your location—locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally—to present a Galilean Wedding. If you can't afford travel costs, I will come anyway, without obligation—just ask. For multiple-day or international presentations, scheduling may require arranging dates several months in advance since I am a full-time pastor and must be careful about absences from my church.