



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *The First Sign of Jesus [John 2:1-11]*

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

If you are married—What was your wedding like? (fancy, simple, were you anxious?) Did anything go wrong or was unexpected? What happened?

If you are unmarried—Describe a wedding that you attended that was your favorite? Why? Did you ever attend a wedding that was a “disaster”? What happened?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Dr. Reynolds Price said, “If you were inventing a biography (not fiction) of Jesus’ life, who would invent for his inaugural sign, a miraculous solution to a social embarrassment?”

1. In what way does John recounting this event re-affirm the reliability/truthfulness of the Bible?
2. In what way is running out of wine at a wedding crucial to understanding the meaning of what Jesus does?
3. In what way does this first sign/miracle point to Jesus having to pay for our sin?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 2:1-11]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins in having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, where in the text.)

Where did the wedding take place? (2:1)

Who was at the wedding? (2:1-2)

What did Jesus’ mother say to Him? (2:3)

What was Jesus’ response to His mother? (2:4)

How did Jesus’ mother respond to His reply? (2:5)

What were the water jars used for? (2:6)

What did Jesus tell the servants to do? (2:7)

To whom did the servants take the water? (2:8)

What happened to the water? (2:9)

What was the banquet master's response? (2:10)

Why did Jesus perform this miracle? (2:11)

How did Jesus' disciples respond to this miracle? (2:11)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Take some time to consider all those who participated in this event. Discuss their roles in making the wedding a success? How may their roles communicate something important about Jesus?

What may John be telling us that the master of ceremonies didn't know that the wine he was tasting used to be water moments ago, but the servants did?

Why does Jesus, at first seem reluctant to help?

What does Mary's confident response "do whatever he tells you" communicate?

What is the significance of the six stone jars?

Jesus saves a young couple and family from embarrassment and even from this couple being marginalized in the future by the wider community.

1. On a relational/human level... what does this tell us about Jesus?
2. On a spiritual level...what does this say about Jesus and who He is?

Read the following Scripture verses (Isaiah 25:6-8 and Revelation 19:6-9)

1. In what way does the first miracle of Jesus correspond with these passages of Scripture?
2. What does this mean for us?

Respond to Dave's paraphrase from Tim Keller,

Jesus sat at wedding party joyfully drinking wine knowing of His coming sorrow and suffering, so that all who believe in Him can sit in the midst of your sorrows and sufferings in order to drink in the wine of the coming joy.

What things has Jesus done that have caused you to have faith in Him?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?