



## LIFE GROUP LESSON 3 – John 2

★ Indicates key questions to use if you are meeting every other week. Full text of John 1 is at the end of this lesson.

### THE MIRACLE OF CHANGING WATER INTO WINE

★ **Question: Why do we sometimes NOT believe it's God when we see a miracle? What prevents us from seeing Jesus in it?**

Read John 2:1-11 – The miracle of changing water into wine

★ **Question: What strikes you about this story?**

When Jesus addressed His mother as “Woman” he was not being rude, as this was a term of respect, often translated “wife,” and the same word Jesus used at the cross to commit Mary to the care of John. However, it was clearly a soft rebuke, making it clear that his time had not yet come.

**Question: Why do you think, after essentially saying “no,” did Jesus go ahead and change the water into wine anyway?**

Read this quote from John scholar, D.A. Carson:

*“In vs. 2:3, Mary approaches Jesus as his mother, and is reproached; in 2:5, she responds as a believer, and her faith is honored. She still does not know what he would do; but she has committed the matter to him, and trusts him... These two verses (2:4–5), as difficult as they are, help to shape this account of Jesus’ first miracle, and ensure that the focus is on Jesus’ glory (2:11), not Mary’s (glory), and on the disciples’ faith (2:11), including Mary’s (trusting faith) (2:5).<sup>1</sup>”*

★ **Question: What does this passage and this quote teach us about asking things of God?**

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<sup>1</sup> Carson, D. A. (1991). [\*The Gospel according to John\*](#) (p. 173). Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

## THE WINE

Jesus turned six stone cisterns – big clay jars holding 20-30 gallons of water – into wine. That is 120 to 180 gallons of wine. There are about 5 bottles in a gallon of wine, so that means this was the equivalent of 600 - 900 bottles of wine! That is a LOT of wine! Upon serving it to the master of the banquet, he declared it was the best wine – “You have saved the best ‘til now!”

★ **Question: What does the sheer quantity and quality of wine that Jesus made tell you about Him?**

Read these two passages from Isaiah:

Isaiah 25:6-9 (NIV - <sup>6</sup> *On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines. <sup>7</sup> On this mountain [through Jesus] he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; <sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup> In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”*

Isaiah 2:2 (NIV) *In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.*

**Question: In light of Jesus’ words in John 2:19, what is the significance of this first miracle or sign that Jesus performs?**

## FOR ADDITIONAL APPLICATION

★ **Question: How would you live if you truly believed God does miracles today?**

★ **Question: Encourage one another and build up each others’ faith by sharing ways that God has done miracles in your life.**

## FOR PRAYER

**As you share prayer requests, think about sharing:**

- What is a miracle you would like to ask God for today?

## John 2

### Jesus Changes Water Into Wine

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

<sup>4</sup> "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

<sup>11</sup> What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

<sup>12</sup> After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

### Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

<sup>13</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

<sup>20</sup> They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

<sup>23</sup> Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. <sup>25</sup> He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

-- The New International Version, (2011). Zondervan.

