



**October 8-9, 2022**

### **Ice Breaker Questions**

- In today's text, Jesus begins to demonstrate who he really is by what he does.
  - What is something you remember someone doing for you or someone else that immediately impressed you?

### **Understand Their Story**

In the first chapter of John, we have rising anticipation as people excitedly gather around Jesus to follow him, but we haven't seen Jesus himself do or say much yet. In John 2:1-11, we see Jesus perform his first miracle, or "sign".

1. Look over the previous chapter for a moment. What was the topic of the last conversation of Chapter 1, in verses 47-51? What does Jesus promise in that conversation?
2. Look back to our story in John 2:1-11.
  - a. What is the problem as the story opens?
  - b. What would be the social cost of this problem going unsolved?
3. Look at the solution to that problem.
  - a. What gets said about the wine Jesus provides? How is Jesus's solution different from just having more wine?
  - b. Why does John say that Jesus did this?
  - c. Do we know what glory means?
  - d. Who saw what happened and didn't believe?
4. John calls "turning water into wine" a sign rather than a miracle. Do you expect different things from a sign than from a miracle?

### **Connect to His Story**

In this story, we are introduced to this wine as somehow being a sign of glory.

5. What is the significance of wine in Old Testament prophecies? What does wine seem to symbolize?

Read these passages and

- ❖ Isaiah 24:6-8
- ❖ Isaiah 25:6-9
- ❖ Joel 3:17-18

6. Look back to John 2:11, where Jesus manifests his glory and the disciples believe. What is the connection between the glory they see and them coming to believe? Why does this kind of glory lead to belief?
7. Much later in his gospel, John explicitly tells us why he wrote about these signs. And Peter uses similar language in some of his writing. Read these two passages out loud, back to back, and listen for shared words or similar ideas.
  - ❖ John 20:28-31
  - ❖ 1 Peter 1:8-9, focusing on verse 8 & 9
  - a. What shared words or similar ideas did you hear?

### Apply to Our Story

John 2:1-11, like last week's passage, does not necessarily call readers to do anything. Instead, John gives us a picture of the joy that Jesus generously brings. It is a joy that draws us to him and is made ours through belief in him.

1. What caused you to believe in Jesus?
2. What gives you joy in Jesus? How could you describe that reason for joy to someone who doesn't know Jesus?

### Prayer

- *Pray in Adoration: Jesus is the glorious only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth, the one who brings us abundant joy!*
  - *Pray in Confession for the times when we've let Jesus become mundane to us.*
  - *Pray in Supplication for renewed sight of Christ's goodness.*
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### God's work and our Work

#### How All of Life Connects to the Gospel - in John 2:1-11

The Theology of Work commentary on this text notes:

"Jesus' 'first sign' (John 2:11), changing water into wine at a wedding in Cana, lays the foundation for understanding the subsequent signs. This is no parlor trick done to attract attention to himself. He does it reluctantly, and the miracle is hidden even from the master of the banquet. Jesus does it *only* in the face of pressing human need and to honor his mother's request. (Running out of wine at the wedding would have brought great shame on the bride, the groom, and their families, and that shame would have lingered long in the village culture of Cana.) Far from being an unmoved mover (as some Greeks regarded God), Jesus shows himself to be the loving, responsive Son of the loving, eternal Father and the beloved human mother."<sup>1</sup>

- This text reveals again to us that we worship a God who cares deeply for our lives. Whether it is our family, our social events, our friendships, our workplaces or our quiet spaces in prayer, God is attentive to our needs.
- How might our understanding of Jesus as revealed in this story, inform and guide us in our own lives (especially our workplaces)?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theologyofwork.org/new-testament/john/water-into-wine-wedding-cana-john-21-11>