GOD WITH US

WEEK NINE

WATER TO WINE: INVITING JESUS TRANSFORMS

November 11th, 2026

## DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does it mean to be a "new creation" and not just a better version of your old self?

2. What are some examples of "the old" that has passed away when you decided to follow Jesus?

3. If you have not made the choice to follow Jesus, what questions or fears are holding you back?

4. How does realizing the Jesus makes you new affect how you view your past mistakes and guilt?

5. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see often (ex: bathroom mirror, desk, bedroom, backpack, etc).

## MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come."

-2 Corinthians 5:17

**I'M PRAYING ABOUT:**

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## DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Romans 12:2. The Greek word for transformation is metamorphosis, like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. How does this image help you understand the depth of spiritual change?

2. In what specific ways do your daily thoughts and ways of living still try to conform to the ways of the world?

3. What does it look like to actively cooperate with the Holy Spirit to “renew our minds”?

4. What is one change in your daily life that you can make to help “renew” your mind?

5. Write out this week’s memory verse below.

## DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Ezekiel 36:26. How would you describe a “heart of stone” vs  a “heart of flesh” in terms of everyday attitudes and relationships?

2. How have your personal desires changed since following Jesus?

3. What is something you used to love that you no longer desire?

4. When your old desires flare up, how can you rely on God instead of sheer willpower/ yourself?

5. Write out this week’s memory verse below.

# WATER TO WINE (FIRST MIRACLE)

INVITING JESUS TRANSFORMS

## DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Galatians 5:22-23. If someone were to look closely at your life, what evidence of Christ's transformation of you would be most evident?

2. What is a recent example of when the fruit of the Spirit were shown in your life?

3. Transformation is ongoing, which fruit of the Spirit do you feel the most need for growth? Why?

4. Jesus' transformational power in our lives often calls us to love our enemies and respond with grace. Where in your life is God calling you to apply this radical love right now?

5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

## DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Philippians 2:13. What is the difference between human effort (trying harder to be a good person) and divine intervention (allowing Jesus to change you from inside)?

2. What is one way you can give up some control and allow Jesus to work in your heart?

3. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. How do we balance resting in the finished work of Jesus with the biblical call to actively "put off the old self" and "put on the new"?

4. Read Philippians 1:6. How does knowing that God is the one who began this good work in you give you hope when you experience setbacks or spiritual dry seasons?

5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

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# WATER TO WINE (FIRST MIRACLE)

INVITING JESUS TRANSFORMS

**November 11th, 2026**

## Weekly Bible Reading Plan

- **John 2:1-11**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17**
- **Romans 12:2**
- **2 Corinthians 3:18**

### Series Theme Verse

**Hebrews 1:1-3 NASB |** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. **3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**John 2:1-11 NASB |** On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; **2** and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. **3** When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus *said to Him, "They have no wine." **4** And Jesus *said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." **5** His mother *said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." **6** Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. **7** Jesus *said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. **8** And He *said to them, "Draw *some* out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it *to him*. **9** When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter *called the bridegroom, **10** and *said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when *the people* have drunk freely, *then he serves* the poorer *wine; but* you have kept the good wine until now." **11** This beginning of *His* signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB | 17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

**Romans 12:2 NASB |** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 NASB | 18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

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# Ice Breaker

### Transformation

If you could transform one ordinary thing in your life into something extraordinary, what would it be? Go around the group in a roundabout style, and have everyone share.

Examples:
- Your car into a fancy car
- Your room being organized
- Your job into a dream job
- School grades being better grades
- Bad habit into a good habit
- McDonald's cheeseburger into a filet mignon

### Connection:

The connection is that Jesus' first miracle took something completely ordinary and turned it into something extraordinary. You can use their responses to connect with some of the questions below.

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you from the message?
2. What does inviting Jesus into your life look like?
3. What transformation have you seen in your life, or what transformation would you like to see?
4. Where do you struggle to invite Jesus?
5. Read John 2:5-8 and answer the following questions.
    1. What did Mary tell the servants to do?
    2. What did Jesus tell the servants to do?
    3. How did the servants respond? What is significant about their response?
    4. What is Jesus asking you to do?
    5. How do you know He is asking you to do it?
6. Do you have any prayer requests?

# LEADER GUIDE- Michael speaking

If you've ever attended a wedding, you know it's a special occasion—a celebration of two people coming together in the covenant of marriage. In John 2, we encounter a particularly memorable wedding where something goes terribly wrong. In those days, marriage celebrations lasted seven days, requiring the groom to provide plenty of food and wine. Yet, for some reason, the wine ran out. This would have been a social disgrace for the couple, suggesting the groom couldn't provide—and that reputation could follow them for life.

In this moment of crisis, the couple had invited a very special guest: Jesus. When the wine ran out, Mary brought the problem to Him. Jesus did not act out of obedience to His mother, but in accordance with the Father's will. He instructed the servants to fill six large ceremonial washing jars with water and bring some to the master of the banquet. When the master tasted it, he discovered it was high-quality wine—Jesus had turned water into wine. This first miracle in Jesus' ministry demonstrated His authority, His divinity, and conveyed a powerful message for us all.

It's significant that Jesus chose ceremonial washing vessels for this miracle. The Jews used these for ritual cleansing—a symbol of washing away sins. Yet, as

Hebrews 10:4 reminds us, the washing with water and animal sacrifices could not truly take away sins. The people relied on rituals and works, not realizing they needed a spotless sacrifice. Jesus is that perfect sacrifice, and this miracle illustrates that only He can transform what is old into something new.

Another notable detail: the master of the banquet marveled that the best wine was saved for last. Traditionally, they served the good wine first and the lesser wine later. Sin and the world are like this—we think we're getting the best at first, but it ultimately leaves us empty. With Jesus, it's the opposite: what He offers is far better than anything the world provides. When we invite Jesus into our lives, He transforms what was ordinary or lacking into something extraordinary. We are all sinners in need of a Savior, and when we turn to Jesus for forgiveness, He makes us new. There is nothing we can do to earn this—just receive Him by faith.

This week, we learn that Jesus kicked off His public ministry with a compassionate, deeply meaningful miracle to communicate to everyone that when He is invited into our lives, transformation takes place. We should invite Jesus into every part of our lives and follow Mary's advice by doing whatever Jesus asks. When we do this, we will also see lasting transformation in our lives as we pursue Him.

1. What stuck out to you from the message?

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2. What does inviting Jesus into your life look like?

**Leader follow-up:**

There might be some overarching themes but this should also have some personal elements. There is the initial invitation of Him into our heart but then it should be evident every single day.

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3. What transformation have you seen in your life, or what transformation would you like to see?

**Leader follow-up:**

Another way to ask this question is: What transformation have you seen in other people's lives?

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4. Where do you struggle to invite Jesus?

**Leader follow-up:**

This question is convicting because what you are essentially asking is where you are not willing to have Jesus in your life. Your phone conversations, your internet searches, social media, your community of friends, etc. This will tie into next week's lesson, where we discuss what needs to be cleaned out of our lives (cleansing the temple).

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5. Read John 2:5-8 and answer the following questions.
    1. What did Mary tell the servants to do?

        **Leader follow-up:**

        The answers here might be simple and may seem like one-answer responses, but the idea is for the kids to learn how to read a passage and ask questions about it. Remember, Jesus asked many questions and usually followed up a question with another, which means He wants us to meditate on the why.

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    2. What did Jesus tell the servants to do?

        **Leader follow-up:**

        You could ask them what these servants might have been thinking when He asked them to fill the water pots with water. Follow up with: Why did He ask them to fill it to the brim?

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    3. How did the servants respond? What is significant about their response?

        **Leader follow-up:**

        This can be reduced down to faith. Take notice that the servants did not question the request but acted in obedience by taking the water pots to the wedding manager. Scripture doesn't tell us *when* Jesus turned the water to wine, but in their minds they could have brought only pots of water to the manager (all we know is that when the manager tasted the water, it was then wine). This is a great lesson for us who should respond with the same faith when Jesus asks us to do something for Him.

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    4. What is Jesus asking you to do?

**Leader follow-up:**
A good follow-up question to this would be: What are you currently reading in the Bible, and what is it teaching you? Other questions would be: What convictions are you experiencing from God right now?

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5. How do you know He is asking you to do it?
   **Leader follow-up:**
   Remember, we mostly ascertain what God is asking us to do by reading His Word.

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6. Do you have any prayer requests?

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## Challenge:

Hand out the homework/digging deeper.

## Upcoming Events:

12/9 Youth Christmas Party
12/11 Gingerbread Building Contest
1/26- 1/27 High School Winter Retreat
2/19 Middle School Lock-In