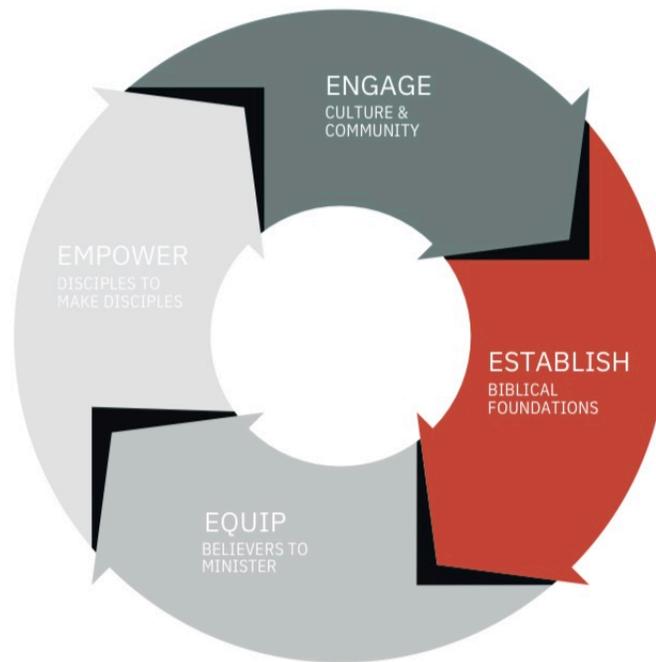


The mission of Rise Up Church is to raise disciples, empower families, and revitalize neighborhoods by the transformational power of the gospel. At Rise Up Church, our discipleship rhythm shapes how we live and expressed in four key movements that we call the 4E's. It is all about following Jesus and helping others do the same.



The purpose of our Koinonia Gatherings is to establish people in biblical foundations by building Christ-centered connections. We believe the Scriptures teaches that life change happens best in community, as we grow together in God's Word and are led by the Holy Spirit.

Below, you'll find a sermon-based guide from the most recent sermon to help lead a Rise Up Church Koinonia Gathering, along with a five day devotional designed to help you apply the sermon throughout the week.

Koinonia Gathering : Glory That Awakens Faith (More Than Water Into Wine)

Based on John 2:1-11

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking Him to reveal His glory to your group as you discuss His Word.

Icebreaker

Share a time when you witnessed something that changed your perspective about who God is or what He can do.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus Steps Into Our Emptiness

The wedding ran out of wine—a moment of cultural shame and emptiness. Jesus didn't ignore the need; He stepped in when invited.

2. Jesus Transforms What We Cannot Fix

Using the six stone jars meant for purification, Jesus demonstrated that external religious practices cannot transform our hearts—only He can do that internally.

3. Jesus Reveals His Glory to Awaken Faith

The disciples moved from knowing *about* Jesus to truly *believing in* Him after witnessing His glory. Information became transformation.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Why do you think John chose to record this as Jesus' first sign? What does it reveal about Jesus' character and mission?
2. The pastor mentioned that Mary's last recorded words were "do whatever he tells you." What does this teach us about discipleship?

3. How does this miracle point to something greater than just a wedding celebration? (Consider the references to Revelation 19 and Jesus as the bridegroom)

Personal Reflection

4. What areas of your life feel "empty" right now—where you've run out of your own resources, strength, or solutions?
5. The sermon stated: "Jesus steps into our emptiness **if we welcome him.**" What keeps us from inviting Jesus into certain areas of our lives?
6. Have you experienced a moment when Jesus revealed His glory to you personally—when He moved from being information to transformation? Share that experience.

Going Deeper

7. The six stone jars represented religious purification that could only clean externally. In what ways do we rely on external "religious" activities instead of allowing Jesus to transform us internally?
8. The disciples believed *after* they saw Jesus' glory manifested. How does seeing God's glory (His power, presence, and character) awaken or strengthen our faith today?
9. The pastor asked: "What is Jesus telling you to do right now?" How would you answer that question? What would it look like to obey Him in that area?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Invitation

- Identify one area of emptiness or brokenness in your life
- Spend time each day this week specifically inviting Jesus into that space
- Journal what you sense Him saying or doing

Option 2: Obedience

- Write down what you believe Jesus is asking you to do (like Mary said: "do whatever he tells you")
- Take one concrete step of obedience this week
- Share with an accountability partner

Option 3: Seeking His Glory

- Ask God to reveal His glory to you in a fresh way
- Look for evidence of His power, presence, and character in your daily life
- Share what you discover with your group next week

Prayer Focus

Break into smaller groups of 2-3 and pray specifically for:

- Areas where group members feel empty and need Jesus to step in
- Transformation in areas where we've been striving in our own strength
- Eyes to see Jesus' glory more clearly
- Faith to be awakened and strengthened

For Further Study

- **Genesis 3** - The promise of the woman's seed who would crush the serpent's head
- **Luke 2:41-52** - Jesus at age 12 in the temple
- **Revelation 19:6-9** - The wedding supper of the Lamb
- **John 1:35-51** - The calling of the first disciples (context before this miracle)

Closing Reflection

"This is the first of his signs Jesus did at Cana in Galilee and manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him." - John 2:11

The question isn't whether Jesus *can* step into your emptiness and transform what you cannot fix—He already proved that. The question is: **Will you invite Him in and do whatever He tells you?**

Next Steps

- Memorize John 2:11 this week
- Read the remaining chapter in John 2 in preparation for next week's discussion
- Follow through on your chosen practical application
- Check in with your accountability partner mid-week

5-Day Devotional: Awakening Faith Through God's Glory (More Than Water Into Wine)

Day 1: Jesus Steps Into Our Emptiness

Reading: John 2:1-5

Devotional: The wedding at Cana reveals a profound truth: Jesus meets us in our moments of depletion. When the wine ran out, it represented more than social embarrassment—it symbolized human limitation and emptiness. Mary's simple statement, "They have no wine," wasn't just about a party; it was an invitation for divine intervention.

Where are you running empty today? Perhaps your marriage feels depleted, your patience exhausted, or your hope diminished. Like Mary, bring your emptiness to Jesus without pretense. She didn't demand or manipulate; she simply presented the need and trusted. Jesus doesn't wait for you to fix yourself first—He steps into your brokenness when you welcome Him. Stop striving in your own strength. Invite Him into that empty place today, and watch Him work beyond your capacity.

Reflection Question: What area of emptiness in your life are you trying to fill without inviting Jesus in?

Day 2: Transformation Beyond Human Effort

Reading: John 2:6-8; Ezekiel 36:25-27

Devotional: Jesus chose six stone water jars used for ceremonial washing—symbols of religious effort and external cleanliness. This was intentional. The Jewish purification system represented humanity's attempt to make themselves acceptable to God through ritual and striving. But Jesus demonstrated that true transformation comes from Him alone.

You cannot clean your own heart. No amount of discipline, willpower, or religious activity can transform your internal brokenness. The water jars could hold water for washing, but only Jesus could turn that water into wine—only He can transform what we cannot fix. Stop trying to make yourself worthy through performance. Surrender your stone jars—those areas where you're religiously striving—and let Jesus do what only He can do. Internal transformation is His specialty, not yours.

Reflection Question: What religious effort or personal striving are you relying on instead of Jesus' transforming power?

Day 3: The Glory That Reveals Who He Is

Reading: John 2:9-11; John 1:14

Devotional: The master of the feast tasted wine, not knowing it had been water moments before. This miracle wasn't just about solving a social problem—it manifested Jesus' glory. Glory means the revealed essence and power of who God is. The disciples moved from information about Jesus to experiential knowledge of Him. They saw clearly.

There's a difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus. You can accumulate biblical facts while remaining spiritually blind to His true identity. The disciples' faith was awakened because they witnessed His glory—His divine nature breaking into the natural world. When have you seen Jesus clearly for yourself? Not your grandmother's religion, not cultural Christianity, but Jesus Himself? Ask Him to reveal His glory to you personally. When you see Him as He truly is—Creator, Transformer, Savior—your faith awakens from information to transformation.

Reflection Question: Do you know about Jesus, or do you know Jesus personally through experiencing His glory?

Day 4: Abundance, Not Just Enough

Reading: John 2:6-10; Ephesians 3:20-21

Devotional: Jesus didn't create just enough wine to finish the celebration—He produced 120 to 180 gallons of the finest quality. This extravagant abundance reveals the heart of God. He doesn't merely meet our needs with sufficiency; He pours out blessing that overflows. The best wine came last, defying cultural expectations.

God's provision exceeds human logic and cultural norms. When Jesus steps into your life, He doesn't give you just enough grace to survive—He gives abundant grace to thrive. He doesn't offer minimal forgiveness—He lavishes mercy. This wedding at Cana foreshadows the wedding feast of the Lamb in Revelation 19, where Jesus, the Bridegroom, will celebrate with His bride, the church, in eternal abundance. His love for you is extravagant, not economical. Receive His overflow today.

Reflection Question: Where have you settled for "just enough" when Jesus offers abundance?

Day 5: Whatever He Says, Do It

Reading: John 2:5; John 14:15, 21

Devotional: Mary's final recorded words in Scripture are profoundly simple: "Do whatever He tells you." This is the essence of discipleship—complete obedience to Jesus' voice. The servants faced an absurd request: fill ceremonial jars with water and serve it as wine to the master of the feast. Obedience preceded understanding. They didn't see the miracle until after they obeyed.

What is Jesus asking you to do right now? Not tomorrow, not when it makes sense, not when you feel ready—now. Obedience is the pathway to experiencing God's power. If you love Him, you will obey Him. Faith isn't passive belief; it's active trust demonstrated through doing whatever He says. The servants witnessed the miracle because they obeyed first. Your breakthrough, your transformation, your awakened faith waits on the other side of obedience. Stop analyzing and start acting. Do whatever He tells you.

Reflection Question: What specific thing has Jesus told you to do that you're still delaying?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, awaken my faith to see You clearly. Step into my emptiness and transform what I cannot fix. Reveal Your glory to me personally so I move from knowing about You to truly knowing You. Help me obey whatever You say, trusting Your abundant provision. I surrender my striving and welcome Your transforming power. In Your name, Amen.