

Signs: When Jesus Brought the Wine

John 2:1-11

Growth Group Discussion Guide

Begin with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you all through God's word, and to lead your discussion.

Opening Questions (try to get everyone involved in discussion):

- What is one of the funniest (or strangest) things you have experienced at a wedding—either yours or someone else's?
- How do you feel about going to weddings?

Read John 2:1-11, then discuss the questions below.

- As you read these verses, which details stand out to you? What confuses you? What is clear?
- What role had the stone water jars—and the water they contained—played in the life of Jewish families in Jesus' day (and for centuries prior)?
 - Why does Jesus choose these vessels to be the containers of his first miracle? What is the symbolism at work here?
 - Pastor Josh said that we all have "empty jars," which we try to fill with things that will give us meaning, satisfaction, and qualitative life. What are some of the things that you have looked to to fill you up? How easy is it to slip into doing those same things presently?
- Think about this event from the perspective of the people involved. How would it have impacted them? Consider:
 - The couple getting married
 - The couple's extended families
 - The new disciples of Jesus
 - The guests
- When you think about Jesus, do you tend to think of him more as the life of the party, or a killjoy? Or something in between? Why?
 - Does that say realization anything about you, or about him?
- Why do you think that John uses the word "sign" to refer to this miracle, rather than the more common word "miracle?" What is this event pointing to?
- Think about the significance that this is Jesus' *first* public miracle.
 - Why might he have chosen a wedding to do his first miracle?
 - Why would wine be the centerpiece of his first miracle? How do you feel about this fact?
 - Read Matthew 20:22 and Matthew 26:39. What light do these verses shed on the place of wine in this miracle, and the "cost" that Jesus would pay?
- In the sermon, we heard that this wine and wedding feast are pointing to an eternal feast that awaits us, as the bride of Christ. How does it make you feel that you are the "bride of Christ," and that you are lavishly loved by Jesus?
 - Are there ways that any of you feel blocked from experiencing this love? Please explain so that we can pray for and support you.

Concluding application:

- The big idea of this week's sermon was, "Jesus generously gives the best life imaginable." Discuss this idea as follows:
 - Do you think that this idea accurately captures the point of Jesus' miracle here? Why or why not?
 - To what degree would you say you have experienced—and are currently experiencing—this life that Jesus gives?
 - What are some practical ways to tap into this life of Jesus?
 - What does it look like to experience the "new wine" (or abundant life) of Jesus in the midst of a hard, painful season of life?
 - Do you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to take any action steps as a result of this sermon and study?

Sharing/Prayer

- As always, take some time to share areas where you need people to pray for you. Spend time praying for one another.