

"WALKING WITH THE CHOSEN" | FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE: "THE WEDDING GIFT" | EPISODE 5

You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence. ~ Acts 2:28 NLT

OPENING PRAYER

Most gracious and loving Father, your gifts and your call can never be withdrawn (Romans 11:29). May we find security in your promises (Romans 8:28). Show us how to share the gifts you designate especially for us from the storehouse of your spiritual gifts. May we use them well to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10). Yet, may we be sure to first give you the best portions of those gifts (Numbers 18:29). We praise and thank you for your greatest gift of all – your one and only Son, Jesus Christ. It is in his name that we lay every petition before you. May you be glorified. Amen.

CONNECTING QUESTION

Have you ever experienced what you knew was a God-given miracle in your life? Please share your story if you are comfortable in doing so.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

WATCH VIDEO

The Chosen | Season 1 | Episode 5 *(Please note that artistic license has been taken with character portrayals and dialogue.)*

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

Invite the Holy Spirit to lead as you work through the questions in this guide. Cover what your time allows and encourage everyone to finish the guide on his or her own.

1. Signs "are not just miracles but are acts demonstrating that Jesus is the Messiah" (Lutheran Study Bible). Turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana was the first of Jesus' "miraculous signs" (John 2:1-11). The disciples saw Jesus do many other signs. Why did John record them (John 20:30-31)? What do you learn about signs from the following verses: Mark 13:21-23, 16:15-20; Acts 2:19-21; Hebrews 2:1-4?
2. What is your reaction to Jesus' brief conversation with his mother (John 2:3-5)? Why do you think Jesus decided to turn "water into wine?" By doing so, what gifts did he give to the wedding attendees? Was there ever a moment when you thought your time "had not yet come," but through the power of the Holy Spirit, you stepped forward to be Jesus' hands, feet, and heart in service to others?

3. What does the gift of marriage communicate about the Lord's desired relationship with his people? (Isaiah 61:10, 62:4-5)
How did Jesus' first miraculous sign point to the ultimate celebration and perfect wedding to come? (Revelation 19:6-9)

4. A witness is someone who sees, hears, or knows through personal experience. That person testifies and gives or offers evidence of that experience. What do you discover in Isaiah 43:10-13; Acts 1:8, 22:14-16; Hebrews 12:1 about how witnessing reveals Jesus' power, glory, and divine nature to others?

5. Read John 10:30-38. Despite the miraculous signs Jesus was doing, some people did not believe that he was the Messiah, and some even hated him. How does knowing that Jesus experienced both positive and negative reactions from others impact your willingness to be a witness for him?

6. "Jesus' miracles were incredibly down-to-earth. They are not just displays of naked power; they are signs of the kingdom. His miracles show us the way to live now in anticipation of the future kingdom." Discuss Timothy Keller's perspective on Jesus' miracles.

THE WEDDING GIFT!

Miracles and joy are found in God's presence. "Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world." (Sarah Ban Breathnach)

Let this be a week-long journey infused with deep humility and extraordinary gratitude for the many gifts you receive from Jesus every day. As a first step, please read the following verses related to the senses. (Many other verses are available from which to choose. Don't hesitate to search for them.) Focus on your senses to experience more of who Jesus is and his desire to be near you. Remember that you are his witness when you share your joy and thanksgiving for the Lord's daily signs and miracles with others.

TASTE: "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2:2-3)

SIGHT: "Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.'" (Luke 18:42)

SMELL: "But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing." (2 Corinthians 2:14-15 NLT)

HEARING: "So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ." (Romans 10:17 NLT)

TOUCH: "Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone." (Luke 6:19 NLT)

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, through the power of your Spirit, we seek to be your Easter witnesses, telling your story of salvation and celebrating the gift of our eternal union with you. As your chosen, our only goal is that you become greater, and we become less, all for your glory (John 3:30). It is in your miraculous Name we pray. Amen.

Our Father...