

Small Group Guide: The First Sign - Water into Wine

Based on John 2:1-11

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you attended a memorable celebration or wedding. What made it special? Have you ever experienced something going wrong at an event you were hosting or attending?

Key Scripture

John 2:1-11 - The Wedding at Cana

Main Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Signs Point Beyond Themselves** - John uses seven specific miracles (called "signs") to point us toward spiritual truths about Jesus
2. **Abundance Over Scarcity** - Jesus provided 120-180 gallons of wine—far more than needed
3. **Abandonment of Tradition** - Jesus used ceremonial washing jars for a new purpose
4. **A Better Product** - The wine Jesus made was superior to what came before
5. **The Best Is Yet to Come** - This miracle points to God's ultimate plan and the wedding supper of the Lamb

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15 minutes)

1. Why do you think John chose this particular miracle as the *first* sign in his Gospel? What does this tell us about Jesus' priorities?
2. The sermon mentioned that Jesus said, "My time has not yet come." What do you think Jesus meant by this statement? How does Mary's response show her faith?
3. How would the original Jewish audience have reacted to Jesus using ceremonial washing jars for making wine? Why is this detail significant?

Going Deeper (20 minutes)

4. The sermon emphasized that "our perceived problems are small potatoes to God." What problems in your life feel overwhelming right now? How does this miracle challenge your perspective on those problems?
5. Jesus provided an abundance—far more than was needed. What does this teach us about God's character and His provision? Can you share a time when God provided abundantly in your life?
6. The master of the banquet said, "You have saved the best till now." How does this statement connect to the broader message of the Gospel? In what ways is "the best yet to come" for believers?

Personal Application (15 minutes)

7. The sermon mentioned being "paralyzed by resources" when it comes to following God's calling. Have you ever felt this way? What dreams or callings has God placed on your heart that you've hesitated to pursue?
8. Mary told the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." What area of your life do you need to simply trust and obey Jesus, even when you don't understand the "how"?
9. John wrote his Gospel "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). How does this first sign strengthen or challenge your faith in Jesus?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Trust Over Timidity

- Identify one area where you've been choosing timidity over trust in God
- Take one concrete step of faith this week, trusting God to provide the resources or outcome

Option 2: Abundance Mindset

- Journal about areas where you tend to think with a scarcity mindset
- Practice generosity this week in time, resources, or encouragement—trusting in God's abundance

Option 3: "Do Whatever He Tells You"

- Spend time in prayer asking God what He wants you to do
- Commit to simple obedience in one specific area, like Mary instructed the servants

Reflection Questions for the Week

- Where do I need to remember that "the best is yet to come"?
- What "signs" has God placed in my life that point to deeper spiritual truths?
- Am I living with a scarcity mindset or an abundance mindset when it comes to God's provision?

Prayer Focus (10 minutes)

Pray for:

- Faith to trust God with our "small potatoes" problems
- Eyes to see the signs God is placing in our lives
- Hope that "the best is yet to come" in our personal lives and as a church
- The families who dedicated their children—that the church would support and encourage them

Closing Prayer Prompt: Go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence: "God, help me to trust You with..."

For Next Week

- Read John 4:43-54 (the second sign)
- Consider: What does it mean to believe Jesus without seeing signs and wonders?
- Bring a specific prayer request where you need to trust God's provision

Additional Resources

- Reflect on other "wedding" imagery in Scripture (Matthew 22, Luke 14, Revelation 19)
- Consider memorizing John 20:30-31 as a group