



Leader Guide

The Sign

January 23, 2022

Main Passage: John 2:1-12

Theological Theme

Jesus Christ is God in flesh. Jesus entered His creation, taking on flesh and the nature of man so that He might obey the law of God flawlessly and die the death of a sinner sacrificially. His miracles prove He is truly who He claimed to be.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever stubbornly refused help from someone on a project because you wanted to do it by yourself? What was the project? How did it turn out?
- ❓ What prevented you from seeking help? Why is this often hard for us?

Children need to make mistakes so that they can learn from them and mature. But sometimes parents need to step in and rescue their children because the task is just too great for them and the stakes are just too high. This example is a parable of what God has done for sinners. Similarly, the narrative from the Gospel of John that we are studying today can serve as an allegory of Christ's work on the cross for those who were dead in their trespasses.

1. Our Efforts (John 2:1-4)

Jesus's miracle at the wedding in Cana is generally thought of as His first miracle and the beginning of His public ministry. Weddings were extremely important events in ancient Jewish society, as they have been for most cultures throughout history. The celebration could last for days and was an opportunity for communities to come together and strengthen their familial and filial bonds. Marriage ceremonies have been viewed as special and sacred because they signify the beginning of a new family unit, which makes up the fabric of society. Strong family units mean healthy, vibrant communities.

2. Christ's Work (John 2:5-8)

John didn't describe the wedding party's state of mind when they realized the wine was exhausted, but we do know word was starting to spread about the debacle because Mary, the mother of Jesus, found out and told Him. It's rare that we are given a glimpse into Jesus and Mary's relationship, so their interaction here is noteworthy. It appears that Mary brought this news to Jesus because she believed He could do something about it. If that had not been her intention, then Jesus's response does not make sense. Of course, it's not surprising that Mary knew Jesus was no mere man.

3. Our Reward (John 2:9-12)

The headwaiter said it best: "Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people are drunk, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now" (v. 10). What was about to be a nightmare for the bride and groom turned out to only increase their joy. Not only were they celebrating their union, but something extraordinary that was done for them.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC