

Icebreaker:

Did your mother ever say anything to embarrass or annoy you? What was it?

Read this week's scripture and discuss:

1. Last week we asked that you be ready to answer this question: We see in John 1 that John the Baptist, Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael all recognize Jesus as the Son of God or Lamb of God. Throughout the gospels, the disciples grow closer to Jesus. Where are you now in your journey of faith? What might help you in taking the next step in your journey of faith?
2. What do we observe about Mary and her relationship with Jesus? How do you understand their exchange here in John 2?
3. Jesus says in response to his mother asking him to help with the wine, "My hour has not yet come." This could mean the hour of his ministry, the hour of him as the groom to his bride the church, or the hour of his impending death. What do you think Jesus' statement means and why?
4. Jesus is about to embark on his ministry and his life mission. Yet he stops to attend a wedding with his mother and his disciples, and works with servants to replenish the wine. What do these clues tell us about what John wants us to know about Jesus?
5. In verse 11, it says "the disciples believed in him" after his miracle of turning water into wine. In John 1, we saw that they all believed in him then. What might this mean that they believe in him now in John 2?
6. When Jesus turned water into wine, he made really good wine and a lot of it (six stone jars of 20-30 gallons each)! What do these details tell us about Jesus?
7. What would it be like to see Jesus do this miracle? Some people at the wedding saw the miracle, others missed it. Do you see miracles or miss them? Where in your life would you like to see a miracle?

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Theresa Beardsley, Amy Lynelle, Joe Mundil, and Ambur Pipkin (daughter of Noah's Ark Director Sherry Pipkin).

In John 2:11, we read turning the water into wine is the first of Jesus' signs which reveals his glory. It's his first recorded miracle. The disciples believed in him. Several of them also said they believed in him in John 1 as the Messiah and the Son of God. So why do they need to believe in him again? Faith is a journey. Often our faith ebbs and flows in life. For many of us who grew up in church, going to college or becoming an adult in our 20s is a time to question our faith. Maybe some tragedy or the feeling of God being absent creates doubt. Being a disciple of Jesus means each day committing yourself to following Jesus again. Some days are harder than others. In our home groups, may our sharing encourage us to commit to Jesus as the Son of God once again this week.

1. Encourage each person to really think about where they are. Be ready to share first where you are in your journey of faith. Be prepared for people to share different stages of faith. Listen and acknowledge their sharing without trying to "fix" where they are. You might even ask if they would like the group to check in with them about any next steps they mention.
2. Some think Jesus was a little harsh to his mother, calling her "Woman." Others think this is more of a playful exchange between a mother and her adult child where she knows what he is capable of and is still his mother. Their familiarity seems to show that they have a close relationship in which they can be "real" with each other.
3. Perhaps Jesus meant that he wasn't ready to start his ministry. If this is the case, his mother pushed him toward helping anyway. Other scholars believe this language, "My hour has not yet come", alludes to his death and resurrection. One day, there will be a wedding with Jesus as the groom and his church as the bride. This is the day we all look forward to since he has been resurrected and we all will be resurrected too.
4. Last week, Jerry preached that Jesus' ministry was often a "low profile" ministry. Jesus going to a wedding and involving the servants and turning the water into wine is very typical of him. Jesus has a way of revealing his glory in a miracle and being humble while doing so. We can learn a lot by studying these stories of how Jesus cares for small things and for individual people.
5. In Mark 9:24 we see a man say, "I believe, help my unbelief!" We can feel this way too. While there is only one time we accept Jesus to be our Savior, we need to continually believe in Jesus each day. Even as "life happens" we can re-commit ourselves to God and believe in Jesus again and again.
6. This means Jesus made over 100 gallons of wine, maybe because wedding feasts in Biblical times could last 7 days! And he made good tasting wine. These details lead us to believe that Jesus cares about abundance and generosity. He loves people and wants to provide for them. He cares about details and people.
7. It would be amazing to see Jesus do a miracle. Yet only some saw this one. Maybe they were too busy having fun, or in his humility Jesus only allowed a few people to see it. Miracles happen when God intervenes in our world today. We have to open our eyes to see God at work, sometimes in miraculous ways. What would you like to see? Encourage people to share here.