

## THE GOSPEL OF

**JOHN**

STUDENT LESSON

**JESUS  
SAVES THE  
DAY**

## Open it

1. What is the most memorable wedding celebration you have been to (or birthday celebration if you've never been to a wedding)? What was memorable about it?

## Daily Devotions

### Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 2:1–12.

2. What event was Jesus and His disciples invited to?
3. What was the problem at the wedding?
4. How did Jesus take care of this problem?
5. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' first miracle?
6. Where did Jesus, His mother, brothers, and disciples go after the wedding at Cana?

## Day 2 — Today's Theme: Engage Your Culture

### Read John 2:1–2

When I was in my early 20s, I remember going to an opening day baseball game with some of my friends who didn't know Jesus. Some of those I went with chose to drink alcohol and a couple of them even got drunk. I personally choose not to drink alcohol. The Bible doesn't say that it's a sin to drink; it's a sin to get drunk.<sup>1</sup> Even in our passage today, Jesus turns water into wine, showing that he approved of those drinking wine at the wedding. I attended the game with them because they were my friends, and I was looking for opportunities to pray for them, show that I care for them and always looking for opportunities to share Jesus with them. There are some times that you need to exercise wisdom and leave if you find yourself in a situation where you would be participating in sin. On a different occasion, I was hanging out with some young adults from my church while still in my 20s, and we all decided to watch a movie together. As we were watching the movie, an inappropriate scene appeared on the screen, so I decided to get up and go in the other room for the remainder of the movie. As I look back on that situation, I wish I would have been bolder and humbly and graciously said something to the whole group asking them to turn the movie off because it wasn't honoring the Lord.

There is a lot of evil and wickedness in our culture, and this can influence us as Christians. Some Christians, because they want to live a pure and holy life, choose to isolate themselves from culture so as not to be influenced by the sin around them. As believers, we should all want to live a pure and holy life, but Jesus doesn't want us to live like hermits in a cave. Jesus wants us to be **in** the world, but not **of** the world.<sup>2</sup> Jesus wants us to engage our culture so that we can influence others with the gospel. In today's passage, we see that Jesus and His disciples attended a wedding they had been invited to. This event marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Nothing in the text says that anything explicitly sinful was happening at the wedding, although it's probable that some of the wedding guests may have gotten drunk. God wants you to be involved in the lives of others around you without participating in their sin. We are to be salt and light to the lost world around us!

**7. In what ways can Christian students engage the culture around them? In what specific ways can you engage your culture?**

**8. What are some practical steps you can take if you find yourself in a situation where you are being asked to participate in sin?**

**9. When is it not good for you to engage culture?**

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<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 5:18

<sup>2</sup> John 17:14–16

## Day 3 — Today's Theme: Ask Jesus for Help

### Read John 2:3.

Just a couple of weeks ago, I was visiting my brother. He has been unsuccessfully looking for community in a church for the past 2–3 years. My desire was to help him find a church where he could find community. I searched the internet and found a church that had a variety of small groups that seemed like a good fit for him. We attended the 9 AM service of that church because they had a small group that was meeting after the service. I remember clearly asking the Lord while in that service to please help my brother find a community in a local church. After the service, he didn't want to stay for that small group. We decided to grab some breakfast, and then I asked him if he was willing to attend the 11 AM service of the church we both grew up in, which was only 5 minutes from where he lives. He agreed to go with me. I didn't originally check out that church first because he had given it a try a few times in recent months, but never found community. We arrived there at 11 AM, and as I was about to rush into the sanctuary to attend worship, my brother said, "Hey, let's check out what they have to offer in the lobby." I haven't been back there on a Sunday morning in 25 years, but people who I knew 25 years ago came up to my brother and me because they recognized us. I asked how someone discovers community in the church and they talked about Grow Groups which are Sunday morning Adult Bible Fellowships. My brother tried one of those groups a few months ago, but didn't connect. I asked around which would be the best group for my brother to check out, and everyone told me about a class called "Standing Stones," which was a different Grow Group than he had attended. He met several people who attend "Standing Stones," and they all showed a genuine interest in my brother and were all looking forward to him attending the next Sunday. To top things off, there was a picnic after church that they only have once a year to celebrate new members, and my brother and I stayed; he was able to experience a more authentic community with people who genuinely showed care for him. God is so good! I tried to figure out how to help my brother how I thought best through my own internet search, but when I asked God for help, He showed up in a huge way!

They ran out of wine at the wedding at Cana, and Jesus' mother said to Him, "They have no more wine."<sup>3</sup> The implication behind Jesus' mother's statement is that she asked Him for help. Mary came to Jesus most likely because tradition has it that Mary's husband, Joseph was dead, and Jesus, being the oldest son, had the responsibility to take care of his mom. Mary also knew that Jesus is the promised Messiah, and maybe this was a time He could use His Messianic power to help the situation. We know that Jesus told her that His time hadn't yet come, but He had compassion and turned the water into wine, answering her call for help.

### 10. Why do we not ask God for help?

### 11. Share a time that you asked God for help, and He helped you!

### 12. Read 1 Peter 5:7. What does this verse say? How should this truth help encourage you to ask God for help?

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<sup>3</sup> John 2:3

## Day 4 — Today's Theme: Jesus is All Powerful

### Read John 2:4–11

When Jesus says that “his time has not yet come,” He is referring to the passion He would suffer on the cross and His resurrection. Because Jesus had compassion on the situation, He chose to use His power to change the water into wine. This shows that Jesus is all powerful and in control of nature. There were six stone jars that hold 20–30 gallons of water each, which were used for ceremonial washings. That is between 120 and 180 gallons. When a Jew was out and about in society, he would come in contact with many things that would cause him to be ceremonially unclean. Before a Jew could partake in the wedding banquet, he had to wash himself with water that was in these stone jars. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. When the servants drew from the jars and handed it to the master of the banquet, it was the best wine of the banquet, better than the wine that they tasted at the beginning of the banquet, and probably the best wine that they have ever tasted in their lives.

Furthermore, a wedding banquet could last up to a week, and if the host of the wedding ran out of wine, that would be a tragically embarrassing situation for the wedding couple. Jesus not only cares about you, but He has unlimited power to act on your behalf. He may not answer your prayers in the way that you expect, but He will answer your prayers in His time and in His way. Mary didn't know what Jesus was going to do, but she knew her son well enough to instruct the servants to “do whatever He tells you.”

**13. Why is it important that Jesus is all powerful?**

**14. How have you seen God's power in your life or around you?**

## Day 5 — Today's Theme: Home Sweet Home

### Read John 2:12

In the movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, a tornado rips through Kansas and transports Dorothy and her dog, Toto, to the land of Oz. After journeying through Oz to find the wizard to help her get back home, at the end of the movie, Dorothy repeats the familiar line, "There's no place like home, there's no place like home," while kicking together the heels of her ruby slippers, and she finds herself back at home in Kansas. Home is the place where family and friends are, and it's a safe place where we can rest before going back out into the world.

John 2:12 is a transitional verse which says that Jesus and His mother, brothers, and disciples traveled to Capernaum. "Capernaum became Jesus' home base during His ministry in Galilee. Located on a major trade route, it was an important city in the region, with a Roman garrison and a customs station. At Capernaum, Matthew was called to be a disciple (Matthew 9:9). The city was also home of several other disciples (Matthew 4:13–19) and a high-ranking government official (4:46). It had at least one major synagogue. Although Jesus made this His base of operations in Galilee, He condemned it for the people's unbelief (Matthew 11:23, Luke 10:15)."<sup>4</sup>

Of course, we know that earth is not our eternal home. We are just passing through. One day we will all be with Jesus at home in heaven. Jesus says, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."<sup>5</sup>

**15. What pleasant thoughts come to your mind when you think about your home?**

**16. What are you looking forward to the most about being at home with Jesus one day?**

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<sup>4</sup> Life Application Bible Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House ; Grand Rapids, Mich. : Zondervan Pub. House, 1991 (notes from John 2:12)

<sup>5</sup> John 14:2-3 (NIV)

This study was compiled, and questions were written by Pastors Mario Arindaeng and Jeremy Anderson. [www.villagebible.church/students](http://www.villagebible.church/students)