

OPEN IT

1. What has been your favorite party you've attended? What things make for a good party?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 2:1-12

- 2. What party were Jesus and His disciples invited to?
- 3. What problem came up at this party that Jesus was asked to fix, and how did He fix it?
- 4. What was the response of all the people at this wedding?
- 5. What effect did this miracle have on Jesus' disciples?

Day 2

Today's Theme: Setting the Foundation

Read John 20:30-31

What do these two simple verses tell you about why John wrote down these miracles and teachings of Jesus? They may be the very heart and soul of why John wrote his gospel in the first place—so that you might believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Does this sound familiar to you? You read a passage like this story of Jesus turning the water into wine at a wedding in Cana and then you find yourself asking the question, "What does this mean for me?" If you're like me and many other Christians, you can slip into thinking that this story is given to us to share some sort of moral obligation we have in following Jesus. Maybe some people could conclude from this story that Jesus really wants us to have a good time and if we ask Him, He'll give us whatever we need to have a blast in this life. Another conclusion could be that if only we'll ask, Jesus will fix all our problems. While there is *some* truth in those statements, that ultimately isn't the reason that John wrote down this story.

Did you notice verse 11? It says that after Jesus performed this miracle, his disciples believed in him! How amazing is that!

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be looking at seven of the miracles that John recorded in his gospel. It is our prayer that as we study these different miracles, you would be encouraged in your faith—that like the disciples and others who witnessed them for the first time, you would also believe in Jesus, maybe for the first time or maybe in deeper ways than you have before.

6. Running out of wine at a wedding would have been an embarrassment and disgrace for the family in this passage. So, while this miracle didn't involve healing the blind or casting out demons, it demonstrated God's power and His concern for this family. When have you been embarrassed or ashamed of yourself? What would it have been like for someone to have alleviated the situation and saved you from your shame? How does Jesus do this for us spiritually before the Father?

7. All of these miracles were recorded so that people would believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Even if you haven't witnessed a miracle firsthand, what things have proven to you that Jesus truly is the Son of God?

Day 3

Today's Theme: Beginning to End

Read Matthew 26:26-29

Isn't it interesting that Jesus began his earthly ministry by turning water into wine, and then before He went to the cross to the pay ultimate penalty for our sins, He took a cup of wine and said, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Why would Jesus turn water into wine at a wedding in the middle of Cana? Perhaps it was to point ahead to the ultimate purpose He came to earth to accomplish: to shed His blood on the cross to bring forgiveness of sins to those who will believe that He is the Son of God and trust in Him alone for the forgiveness of their sins and to receive eternal life in His name.

While His initial miracle may have seemed rather insignificant, it brought about the faith of His disciples. After witnessing this miracle, they believed in Jesus as the Son of God—the Messiah of the world. On that day, Jesus spared a Jewish family of the embarrassment and disgrace of running out of wine at the wedding but even more significantly, He proved to His disciples that He wasn't just any ordinary teacher, He was the promised Savior. By believing in Jesus, the disciples found the ultimate delivery from shame and disgrace by having their sins washed away by the blood of Christ.

Jesus isn't just in the business of saving us from earthly disappointments. By shedding His blood on the cross, He is delivering all those who call upon His name from the eternal shame and disgrace of sin. Have your sins been forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ? Have you asked Jesus to remove your shame and to give you freedom in His name?

8.	Why is salvation found only in Jesus? Why can't you simply be a good enough person to get into heaven for all
	eternity?

9. What are some ways you can help meet practical needs in the lives of your friends and neighbors? How does meeting practical needs help people see the love and compassion of Jesus firsthand, even if it doesn't take place in the form of a miracle?