

**Wednesday** *Water jars for Jewish rites of purification.*

**Read John 2:6-7**

**Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. The quantity and capacity of the jars is unusual, even for a large wedding. What might this symbolize?
2. Jesus directs the servants to fill the jars with water. What might this indicate?

**Prayer Focus**

Lift to God a current need of yours or someone who love. Find an image for your need, like the water jars. Imagine Jesus commanding that your need be met, as He directs the jars to be filled.

**Thursday** *Steward tasted the water become wine!*

**Read John 2:8-10**

**Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. Imagine this scene playing out: surprise of the steward, the inside knowledge of servants, reaction of bridegroom. What would their feelings and reactions be to this miracle?
2. Consider the reversal of serving inferior wine first and good wine last. Does this sound similar to anything else in Jesus' ministry? Why is Jesus' wine the better variety?

**Prayer Focus**

Give thanks for a surprising turnaround you have experienced in your life, one in which you have seen God at work.

**Friday** *Jesus did the first of signs...and revealed his glory.*

**Read John 2:11**

**Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. What might have prompted Jesus to change his mind from verse 4 to verse 7?
2. How does this sign reveal his glory?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray for a local, national, or global crisis, asking God to create a turnaround in the situation and reveal divine glory.

**A Light to Enlighten the Nations:  
The Illumination of New Wine**

At Cana, Jesus began his work of illuminating dark places. At a moment of crisis, Jesus reveals God's glory working in him by changing common water into the uncommon; the ordinary was made extraordinary. His ministry began with the re-illumination of a celebration that had gone dark. How can we light up the dark places of our world, serving lavishly what we have been given?

**Message Notes:**

## Small Group Format

### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Share an experience of abundance or a miracle in your life. How was the glory of God revealed in the situation? When and how did you recognize God's activity?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on John 2:1-11.

- Have someone read **John 2:1-11**.
- Discuss observations about the text
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

### *Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?*  
(This is a weekly question – it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

January 20, 2019

## The Illumination of New Wine

**Monday** *Mother of Jesus, Jesus, disciples at wedding.*

### Read John 2:1-2

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. "Third day" follows two previous days described in chapter 1. Jesus' resurrection was "on the third day." Do you think John intended to connect the two events? Why? How are they similar?
2. In the 4 Gospels, this is only appearance of Jesus at a wedding. What might this unique setting say about Jesus?

### Prayer Focus

Remember and give thanks for a joyous occasion when you felt Christ's presence with you.

**Tuesday** *The wine ran out...My hour has not yet come.*

### Read John 2:3-5

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. In what positive way does Jesus' mother provide a model for him and his ministry? Why would she expect him to do anything in this crisis?
2. Jesus is concerned about timing in his ministry. Why is the timing important?

### Prayer Focus

Give thanks for those who have provided a compassionate model of ministry for you. Ask God to reveal how you are called to be in ministry at this time.

