



HOME GROUP MATERIAL

WATER INTO WINE

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I. Introductory Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you most about the “Water into Wine” Sermon on Sunday?
2. Read the account of Jesus’ first miracle in John 2 vs 1-11:

John 2:1-11:

“Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine had given out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They are out of wine." "You must not tell me what to do," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." Jesus' mother then told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." The Jews have rules about ritual washing, and for this purpose six stone water jars were there, each one large enough to hold between twenty and thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill these jars with water." They filled them to the brim, and then he told them, "Now draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast." They took him the water, which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it. He did not know where this wine had come from (but, of course, the servants who had drawn out the water knew); so he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have drunk a lot, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!" Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee; there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.”

What stands out for you most in this passage?

3. Why do you think it is significant that *this* was Jesus’ first miracle?

II. Miracles happen when we understand that Jesus cares about our everyday needs

Jesus’ first miracle was not what one might have expected it to be. He did not perform a life-and-death miracle that had great public significance. Jesus chose to intervene in the small, everyday situation at the wedding in Cana.

1. Read and reflect on the following Scriptures. What do you think it means for us that God is an intrinsically personal God?

- **Isaiah 43 vs 1:**

"Israel, the LORD who created you says, "Do not be afraid---I will save you. I have called you by name---you are mine."

- **Psalm 139 vs 7-14:**

"Where could I go to escape from you? Where could I get away from your presence? If I went up to heaven, you would be there; if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there. If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west, you would be there to lead me, you would be there to help me. I could ask the darkness to hide me or the light around me to turn into night, but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are the same to you. You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because you are to be feared; all you do is strange and wonderful. I know it with all my heart."

- **Matthew 10 vs 29-31:**

"For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!"

2. Many people can accept that God is directing and ordering the larger scheme of things, but not that He is personally involved in the intimate details of our lives. Why do you think it is so hard to believe or accept that God is concerned about and involved in every aspect of our everyday lives?
3. What evidence can you see that God is involved and concerned about the "smaller" things in your everyday life?
4. If God is deeply concerned about everything you do, how are you doing in terms of letting God be involved in every aspect of your life?
5. If there is an area of your life (your work, a relationship etc.) where you are keeping God at bay, why do you think you are doing so?
6. What can you practically do to ensure that you commit every part of your life to God and let Him direct and be in control of all of who you are and what you do?

III. Miracles happen when we understand that Jesus transforms our everyday experiences

Just like Jesus transformed the water into wine Cana, His whole life and ministry was ultimately a message of transformation.

1. What do you understand by the term “transformation.”
2. What do you think it means to be transformed by God?
3. Read and reflect on the following Scriptures about transformation:
 - **Ezekiel 11 vs 19-20:**

“And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And I will remove the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh, so that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”
 - **2 Corinthians 5 vs 17-18:**

“Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also.”
 - **Revelation 21 vs 5:**

“And He sitting on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said to me, Write, for these words are true and faithful.”
4. It was significant that Jesus turned the ceremonial cleansing water, set aside for ritual cleansing, into wine. His message was that religion cannot save us but that we need to be transformed by God’s love and salvation. Paul writes in Ephesians 2 vs 8-9 that our works cannot save us. Why do you think we often tend to want to rely on our own ways and works to save us instead of wanting to rely on what God can do for us?
5. What would you say is the one area of your life in which you most need God’s transformation right now?

IV. Miracles happen when we understand that God provides extravagantly for our everyday needs

Jesus made an extravagant amount of wine for the wedding guests. This miracle was not one of necessity, but one of abundance and it revealed the abundant and extravagant love of our God.

1. What evidence do you think we have that our God is an extravagant and abundant God?
2. What do you think Jesus meant when He said He came to give us “life and life in abundance” (John 10 vs 10).
3. Jesus is always willing to provide lavishly for us, but we, like the servants at the wedding, have to be willing to obey – to go out on a limb – and follow Jesus’ instructions, even when they seem crazy, in order to see His miracles. What do you think holds us back from obeying Jesus wholeheartedly?
4. It is only when the wedding party ran out of wine that Jesus came and provided so lavishly for them. Often, the same is true for us – it is only when we reach the end of ourselves, of our own resources and supply that we are ready to receive what God has to give and that we experience His miracles. Read and reflect on the beatitudes from *The Message* translation of the Bible:

Matthew 5 vs 3-11:

“You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One dearest to you. You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought. You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat. You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for. You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world. You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family. You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.”

Why do you think God often makes us reach the end of ourselves before He acts on our behalf?

5. How do you think we can be more open to receiving the abundance of God and experiencing His miracles – read ... *I become less and you become more...*

VI. Call to action

Discussion:

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION:

- Divide your group up into prayer partners who can pray for each other this week regarding the area/s in their lives where they most need God's transformation or miracles.