

Cabernet at Cana

Pastors Tommy Creutz, John Smith, Jeff Thompson, Jon Bell | John 2:1-11

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion, or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Ice Breaker

Describe an embarrassing situation — from a book, a film, or real life.

Understanding the Text in Context

What would running out of wine mean for a family in a 1st-century Jewish wedding? Why might this situation feel like a “crisis,” even though it might seem less significant to us?

Why does John specifically mention that the jars were for **purification**? What is Jesus “doing” symbolically by turning purification water into wine? What might this say about:

- The Old Covenant (the Mosaic Covenant)?
- The need for cleansing?
- What is Jesus bringing?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

Even at a wedding, Jesus speaks of His “hour,” showing that Jesus also has the bigger picture in mind. In this case: His cross. (See John 7:30, 8:20, and 13:1.) How does shame relate to the cross? (See Hebrews 12:2.) Describe how Jesus’ miracle is both a blessing in the moment **and** a pointer to a blessing for an even deeper need.

When Jesus provides for you, do you trace that grace back to His cross? And to the future resurrection with Jesus? (See Psalm 16:9-11 and Isaiah 25:6-9.)

Read Ephesians 2:4–9. Are you trying to earn what Jesus freely gave? How does trying to earn a gift dishonor the giver?

Living Out the Truth

In what ways might your faith currently look more like “proximity to Jesus” (activity, familiarity, routine) rather than true surrender and trust? What would real transformation look like in your daily life?

What are you facing right now that you don’t have a solution for? What’s something God is calling you to be obedient in that you don’t understand? How is that shaping your faith right now? Encourage and pray for one another.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Read the story together, explaining the story and its significance. Describe how Mary’s statement about Jesus (“Do whatever he tells you,” verse 5) is an excellent summary of discipleship. Why is it so hard to trust when the future is so unclear to us? How can what we know about Jesus help us? Pray together.

Further Study

Jesus — and our belief in Him — is the point of John’s Gospel (Jn 20:31). And this story is no exception: “[What Jesus’s First Miracle Shows Us About Who He Is.](#)”

Jesus creates wine. This raises the issue of alcohol more generally. Two helpful articles are “[Should Christians Practice Total Abstinence from Alcoholic Beverages?](#)” and “[Did You Know that the Bible Commands Us to Eat, Drink, and Be Merry?](#)”

Jesus instructed the servants to use the stone jars intended for purification. Purity is a theme woven through the cultures of the Bible. While often a foreign idea for us, here is a helpful overview of “[What to Do with the Bible’s Purity Laws.](#)”

Looking ahead to next week’s Sermon and Text:

- Read the three sections in the Scripture Journals for John 2:12-25: “Passover: The Time,” “Passover: The Place,” and “Passover: The People, Understanding Our Need.”