

SIGNS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to community group! We believe that people come to faith and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also spending time with other Christians. That's what we're hoping for tonight. Here's what's happening in the broader life of the church:

• Ash Wednesday: February 26th

We're going to gather for worship at 7p on Wednesday, February 26 @ the church building to mark the beginning of Lent and our journey toward Holy Week & Easter. Children are more than welcome to participate in worship but there will only be childcare for children ages 4 and under. RSVP for childcare on Church Center.

The Wedding at Cana

(John 2.1-12)

OPENER

This week we began a new sermon series called "Signs" as we also began the season of Lent. Lent is a season of preparation, a season of repentance and reflection, leading up to Easter weekend. As we look at these miracles Jesus performed - "signs" as John calls them - let's let our prayer be for eyes to see the signs, ears to hear God's truth, and hearts to love God more.

Open up with a prayer toward that end: eyes to see and ears to hear, giving thanks for the community God has given us, asking for encouragement amongst one another, and for God to be honored, etc.

STUDY/DISCUSSION

The first sign we're looking at is the wedding at Cana found in John 2.

>> READ >> John 2.1-12

1. Hearing this story, what immediately stands out to you? What is interesting? Challenging? Confusing? Encouraging? What questions does it raise for you?
2. In v. 3 we hear that "the wine ran out". What problem do you think this presented?
3. When Mary informed Jesus that they had run out of wine, how did He respond? (See vv. 3-5). Why do you suppose Jesus gave Mary this initial response? And what does this interaction tell us about their relationship? What questions does it raise?
4. How did Jesus perform this sign? What did he use? Who was involved? How much wine did he produce?

5. What message do you think Jesus is communicating to his people by means of this sign and all that it produced? What does this *sign* point to?
6. When the master of the banquet tasted the wine, what was his response? (See vv. 9-10)
7. What does verse 11 tell us about this sign and what it did, what it points to?
8. It seems not everyone was aware of what had happened or *how* it happened or who made it happen. The servants and Mary and the disciples seem to be in the know but not everyone at the party. What might this tell us about not only this sign but the way God reveals himself to people even today?
9. What is one way your faith can grow in light of what we've discussed?

PRAY

Take some time and pray together. Pray for each other and pray specifically for eyes to see God in the scriptures, in the signs we'll be discussing through Lent, and in all the ways He might want to show his love for us.