

# The Year of Discipleship in 3-D

*(Further Developing Devoted Followers of Christ)*



Welcome! Growing into more fully-devoted followers of Christ, may this time help all: **Grow Upward** into a more mature personal relationship and commitment to Christ Jesus faithful to God's Word!

**Grow Outward** to neighbor and world around, learning how to love well and to lead in what matters to God - guided by God's Word, by Jesus Himself, and by the Holy Spirit!

And, **Grow Inward** to discover a more contemplative faith, enhanced by both silence and prayer!

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## The Scripture for Sunday, January 9, 2022

### [STUDY LESSON 18]

#### THE GOOD NEWS READING:

*John 2:1-11*

{1} On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. {2} Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. {3} When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." {4} And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." {5} His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." {6} Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. {7} Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. {8} He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. {9} When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom {10} and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." {11} Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDANCE AND QUESTIONS:

For an overview of John consider watching: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john/>

For an overview of John 1-12 consider watching: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john-1-12/>

1. Open *(or have someone in the group open)* with a prayer inviting the work of the Holy Spirit to open up the hearts and lives of any and all to shape believers into more fully devoted following of Christ.
2. Read *(or have one or more persons read)* the passage printed above *(or from a bible)*.
3. What words or phrases caught your attention as your heard this passage read? Put another way, were you to choose to memorize a verse and cherish it from this text, what verse might that be and why? Take note within yourself, what sort of feelings arise in that word, phrase, or verse?
4. BACKGROUND NOTES: This Wedding at Cana of Galilee is the first public ministry event in the life of Jesus as recorded by John. Weddings were often a week-long event. In John, the mother of Jesus is never recognized as "Mary." She appears here *(beginning of His ministry)* and at the cross *(end)*. Jesus performs seven signs in the Gospel, the water into wine being the first. These are only noted as "signs" rather than "miracles" which may help to clarify their purpose. Signs have something to do with pointing to something. The expression "on the third day," connect with Jesus temple cleansing *(John 2:19)* and use of the same: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

5. The Seven Signs in the Gospel According to John:
  - a. Wedding at Cana (2:1-11)
  - b. Healing of Official's Son (4:43-54)
  - c. Healing of Man Ill for Thirty-Eight Years (5:1-18)
  - d. Feeding of the Five Thousand (6:5-14)
  - e. Walking on Water (6:16-24)
  - f. Healing of the Man Blind from Birth (9:1-7)
  - g. Raising of Lazarus (11:41-44)
6. Can you ever remember a gathering where the host(ess) experienced the embarrassment of running short on food or drink?
7. Recall any weddings/receptions you have ever attended. What do such events express or intimate, given all the activities surrounding such gatherings? What are some of the important messages possibly being communicated to those in attendance (*and to us as readers*)?
8. Given the prologue's theme of "abundance," the quantity of wine made from water is vast (*in the vicinity of 600-900 bottles*). Name some of the "abundances" that could be on display at the hands of Jesus here.
9. How might we interpret Jesus entering such a normal event of human life (*wedding*) and being the presence of God into the day-to-dayness of human life?
10. As elsewhere, Jesus is not led into ministry by baptism or temptation in wilderness, but by his mother. What could have led to Mary "coaxing" Jesus at this moment?
11. Ponder, reflect within, and if willing, express what you believe is Jesus' abundance in your life to this point. What have you received that is nothing short of the best and is (*even surprisingly*) more than you could have ever imagined?
12. The word "hour" (*John 2:4*) has some prominence for John. In the coming chapters, Jesus will continue expressing how the time has not yet arrived. Eventually (*John 13:1*), Jesus will announce the arrival of "his hour." What follows from there is his eventual arrest, passion, resurrection and ascension. In what ways can this first sign foreshadow what is to come?
13. What, if any, characteristics of God's identity are evident here in Jesus' activity at the Wedding in Cana of Galilee?
14. Spend some time talking or reflecting upon the actions on the part of the mother of Jesus, and in particular, her faith. If willing, share (*or personally identify within yourself*) an aspect of your life where you believe God is calling upon you to trust Jesus more, or point to Him as she did (*John 2:5*).
15. What is your main discipleship "takeaway" from this text?
16. Can you identify any particular ways your Christian faith and following might be inspired to change in light of this passage from the Bible (and any discussion and/or reflection that may have taken place)?
17. (*Optional*) Read the passage once more. Then, take some time to close (or have someone close) with a prayer.