

All in God's time

John 2.1-11

When the wine runs out at a wedding, Mary asks her son Jesus to help. Although Jesus is resistant, Mary tells the servants to follow Jesus' instructions. He tells them to fill the jars with water which becomes the best wine.

Now read John 2.1-11 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

John tells us this was the first sign revealing Jesus' glory and that the disciples put their trust in him from that point. As we read John's Gospel, we see how the lives of ordinary people are transformed. Thus we understand how our ordinary lives can also be transformed through faith in Jesus.

TRANSFORM

On the BBC's Great British Sewing Bee contestants are challenged to take a piece of 'boring' clothing and transform it into something wonderful. There is an especially good example in series 5, episode 5 (search for this on BBC iPlayer or YouTube; the clip is about about 23 minutes in). Watch it with other household members, then challenge each other to transform a piece of old clothing into something more exciting. Present the results in a 'fashion show', during which you ask God to transform each person to do something new.

RECYCLE

Every time you recycle something this week, take the opportunity to pray the following prayer:

'Lord, as this (bottle/can/paper...) is recycled, help me transform something for you.' Perhaps you could think of a different prayer for each different type of recycled material. You could write the prayers out and stick them on your recycling bin to be reused regularly.



What ordinary things would you like God to transform?



How many uses can you find for a toilet roll tube? Try making a butterfly suncatcher as a sign of transformation.

You will need: a toilet roll tube, a lolly stick, coloured acetates, felt pens, googly eyes, a pipe cleaner, scissors, PVA glue. Flatten the toilet roll a little and cut it into four pieces, each now an oval(ish) shape. Stick coloured acetates to each one to make the wings.

Make a body with the lolly stick, using googly eyes (or felt pens) to make the face and a pipe cleaner for antennae. Stick the wings to the body. Watch this video showing how to do this: <https://www.hellowonderful.co/post/butterfly-suncatcher-craft/>

Go outside when the sun is shining and hold your butterfly up, with your back to the sun, so that it shines through and casts a colourful shadow on the ground in front of you. What colourful shadows can you cast for God today?



ACT

Is there an area in your locality that you – with the help of others, as appropriate – could transform? For example, organise a litter pick for an area that is a bit of a mess. Everyone will need gloves and, ideally, a litter picker, a bag and high visibility clothing. Avoid areas close to roads. There may be a local group that already does this (search online for 'Litter Legends') that you could join. Alternatively, you could plant bulbs in somewhere (the churchyard) – asking permission first, of course. Whatever you choose to do, will there be an instant transformation or will it take time? How might this reflect God's work in us?



Celebrate the ordinary by having an ordinary party. Eat ordinary food. Drink water. Wear ordinary clothes. Don't play any games but celebrate ordinary things about each other. Then discuss what little miracles you've seen in the ordinary this week. How many can you think of?

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary were all invited to a wedding in a village called Cana in Galilee. The festivities were in full swing, and everyone was enjoying themselves, when the wine ran out! Jesus' mother told him, 'They've run out of wine!' But Jesus replied, 'Why are you telling me? My time has not come yet.'

Even so, his mother told the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Nearby there were six large empty stone water jars. Each one could hold litres and litres of water. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water, and they did, right to the top. Then he told them, 'Pour some out and take it to the steward of the banquet.' And they did that too, just like he told them. The steward of the banquet tasted it. The water had been turned into wine! The steward didn't know that, or even who had done it, but the servants who had filled the jars with water knew.



The steward called the bridegroom to one side and complimented him. 'Everyone brings out the best wine first, and then the cheaper wine as the party goes on. But you have saved the best until now!'

And this was the first sign of glory that Jesus revealed, right there in the village of Cana, and his disciples believed in him.

John 2.1-11

Did you know?

- A steward is someone who organises a big event; a banquet is a grand dinner party.
- A miracle is an act of wonder that shows how powerful God is. It is something that cannot be explained in an ordinary way.

John 2.2-11 (NRSV)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them,

'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. 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 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.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.