

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

*Lesson 2 – Study Questions*

*John 2:1-25*

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### DAY ONE

1. What ideas from the spiritual reflection and/or commentary from Lesson 1 did you find meaningful and helpful in your life this week? Record your thoughts.

#### Read John 2:1-4

2a. In today's lesson, John begins to describe a wedding which will be the setting of Jesus' first miracle (sign). This wedding is only recorded in John's Gospel. Where and when did the wedding take place (verse 1)?

b. Many scholars consider that mention of "third day" refers to the giving of the Mosaic law on Mount Sinai which was also the beginning of a new relationship between God and His people. Read [Exodus 19:10-11](#) and briefly summarize what happened on the third day.

3. The Mother of Jesus was at the wedding and Jesus and His disciples were also invited (verses 1 and 2). Even though weddings are happy occasions, they sometimes have a glitch. What problem appeared in verse 3?

4. We do not know whose wedding was being celebrated, but when the wine ran short, the Mother of Jesus told Him "they have no wine" (verse 3). From verse 4, record Jesus' answer and comment on the tone He may have taken.

**THINK:** What character of the Bible was called "woman" in [Genesis 3:6](#)? How is Mary (the "new Eve") like and unlike the original Eve?

5. Comment on the meaning of "hour" in this passage.

6. CONNECTION: In Jesus' time it was the groom's job to provide the wine for the wedding. If he failed, the bride's family could sue him for damages. Running out of wine was a disaster! All brides want a perfect wedding, with the most beautiful dress, table linens, flowers, and cake. In the wedding at Cana, the bride might not have had the best dress or cake, but she invited the right Person (who provided the best wine). Think about a wedding you have held or in which you have participated. Was Jesus invited? What did He contribute? Make some notes for your small group.

The most important components of a marriage are Jesus and love. In Song of Songs 8:6 (NIV), the poet says "Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame." Write a short prayer for young people contemplating marriage.

## **DAY TWO**

### **Read John 2:5-7**

7a. As today's lesson begins, Mary responded to Jesus' answer by giving instructions to the servants. What did she say to them in verse 5? (Good memory verse)

b. These words demonstrate another role of Mary: to encourage us to trust and obey Jesus. They also echo words from Genesis 41:55 and Exodus 19:7-8. Read these verses and record the words similar to those of Mary in verse 5.

Genesis 41:55

Exodus 19:7-8

8. Mary the mother of Jesus is mentioned by John only in this passage (at the beginning of Jesus' ministry) and in John:19:25 at the foot of His cross. Her few words are powerful and show her confidence in her Son. Find and record a passage in another Gospel in which Mary's trust in God is evident.

9. For what were the six stone jars mentioned in verse 6 to be used?

10. The six stone jars mentioned in verse 6 would hold approximately 120-180 gallons, a lot of wine! In Biblical symbolism, the abundance of wine is associated with the coming of the Messiah. Pick one of the following verses and record it.

Isaiah 25:6

Joel 2:24

Amos 9:13

11. What did Jesus command the servants to do and what was their response in verse 7?

12. CONNECTION: "Do whatever He tells you." What wonderful advice our Blessed Mother shares with us. This first miracle (the first sign) in Jesus' ministry resulted from Mary's intercession. The Catechism states that "Love of Mary never conflicts with love of Christ. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of 'Mother of God,' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs ..." Have you ever needed to explain the Catholic Church's veneration of Mary to someone outside the Faith? Describe your experience and share some of your explanation or the resources that you used.

Pope Francis stated in his 2013 Easter Mass: "Together let us pray to the Virgin Mary that she helps us ... to walk in faith and charity, ever trusting in the Lord's mercy." Let these thoughts lead you into prayer.

### **DAY THREE**

**Read John 2:8-11**

13a. Today's lesson concludes John's account of the marriage at Cana. After having told the servants to fill the jars with water what did Jesus instruct them to do with the contents (verse 8).

b. Describe what happened to the "water" the headwaiter tasted (verse 9)?

14. The headwaiter called the bridegroom (verse 9). According to the last part of verse 10, how did he express his surprise?

15. The servants were the only ones (besides Jesus and Mary) who knew what had really happened. Comment on why Jesus would have revealed His power to such lowly people.

16. What was the result of the miracle at the wedding at Cana (verse 11)?

**NOTE: "On the threshold of his public life Jesus performs his first sign - at his mother's request - during a wedding feast. The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ's presence." CCC1613**

17. Look up a religious definition of "glory" and comment on the meaning of "and so revealed His glory."

18. CONNECTION: Jesus attended the marriage at Cana to witness the promise of two people to love and honor each other for their whole lives. It was a beginning and an end for Jesus: the beginning of His public ministry, leading to salvation of the world; the end of a private life in a loving family and small community. How difficult it must have been for Jesus to leave this life behind and step forward into the future. Recall a recent time in which you or someone close to you began something good but had to leave something good behind. Describe the situation for your small group and how you made that transition.

Read Isaiah 46:9-10 and record a line or lines from this passage which describes God's oversight of the changes in our lives.

#### **DAY FOUR**

**Read John 2:12 -16**

19a. After the wedding Jesus moved on to Capernaum and stayed for only a few days. From verse 12 list the people who accompanied Him.

b. Jesus then traveled on to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem (verse 13). Read Deuteronomy 16:1. Why was Passover important to the Jews?

20. Find Capernaum and Jerusalem on your Bible map. Note that Jerusalem is south of Capernaum. What do you think is meant by "going up" to Jerusalem from Capernaum?

**NOTE: In many passages throughout the bible we read of Jerusalem's elevation. For example: "Jerusalem, built as a city, walled round about. There the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as it was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD" (Psalm 122:1-4).**

21. When Jesus arrived at the temple area (verse 14), He found "those who sold oxen, sheep and doves as well as the money-changers seated there" (verse 14). List the things Jesus did according to verse 15.

22a. What did Jesus tell those selling doves (verse 16)?

b. How did Jesus' statement in verse 16 imply that He is the Messiah?

23. In verse 16 Jesus' words and actions symbolically show that a change is coming for the people of Israel, fulfilling an Old Testament messianic prophecy. Record the last sentence of Zechariah 14:21.

24. CONNECTION: Jesus brought change. He brought a new Covenant through which God would be worshiped in spirit and truth. Jesus will be the new and perfect sacrifice, replacing the need for all other sacrifices. What He did in the Temple was shocking to the apostles and bystanders then and is still shocking to us now. Yet we know that it was a loving act on Jesus' part. Sometimes we need to rock the boat to get a particular thing done. Have you felt called to act in a shocking or "unpleasant" way or have you been shocked by others' actions only to realize later that they were done in love? Jot down some thoughts for your small group.

Read and record Romans 12:2 and pray that God will lead you to act in loving ways.

#### **DAY FIVE**

**Read John 2:17-21**

25. Jesus' words and actions in cleansing the temple reminded His disciples of an Old Testament verse, "Zeal for your house will consume me" (Psalm 69:10). Look up a definition of the word "zeal" and explain how this verse applied to Jesus.

26. The Jews who witnessed the cleansing of the Temple asked Jesus for proof that He had the authority to do this. What did the Jews ask Jesus in verse 18?

27a. Record Jesus' mysterious reply to them in verse 19.

b. To what do you think Jesus was referring?

28. In verse 20 the Jewish leadership pointed out that the construction of the Temple had been going on for 46 years. What tells you they found Jesus' statement incredible?
29. How did the Jews' reference to the Temple differ from what Jesus really meant (verse 21)?

**THINK:** Ephesians 1:22-23 illustrates the Father's plan to make Jesus His dwelling place on earth: "And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way."

30. CONNECTION: To the Jews the Jerusalem Temple was the dwelling place of God on earth, but Jesus as God incarnate was the true Temple. Saint Paul tells us that we are each part of Christ's body, the Church of God here on earth, and that each of us has a part to play that corresponds with a part of the body. What part of Christ's body are you? Are you the tongue who speaks for Christ? Are you His hands that act out His kindness? Are you His heart that loves and prays for others? Jot down some thoughts about this for your small group.

"Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary." - Pope Benedict XVI. Begin your prayer today thanking God for the special purpose He has given you.

#### **DAY SIX**

**Read John 2:22-25**

31. According to verse 22, the disciples would later remember Jesus' prophecy about the temple. When did they remember it?
32. After Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples looked back and believed the scripture and the words which Jesus had spoken (end of verse 22). What does this suggest about their understanding at the time of the cleansing of the temple?
- 33a. When Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover festival why did many people come to believe in His name (verse 23)?
- b. Although no "signs" (miracles) are listed in this Passover episode, what do you think is meant by this reference to "signs"?
- 34a. What was Jesus' reaction to the people of Jerusalem (beginning of verse 24)?

b. What could "He knew them all" mean?

35. List the three reasons for Jesus' reaction set out in verses 24 and 25?

36. Only a few people accepted Jesus as the Messiah at that time; rather, those who saw His miracles may have seen Him as a holy rabbi or a prophet. From the last two weeks' study, who were among the first to understand and believe in Him?

37. CONNECTION: Some claiming to believe in Jesus did so because of His signs, but did not understand His message of love or recognize the miracle of Who He was. Sometimes we fail to listen to and appreciate those closest to us. The book, Talk To Me Like I'm Someone You Love (by Nancy Dreyfus), helps the reader to learn to listen and speak to a loved one in a thoughtful and respectful way. For example, rather than continuing to argue, say: "I can see I have missed the point, please give me another chance." Think about ways to better understand and cherish those closest to you and share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Mark 9:7 and ask God to open your heart.

Read Lesson 2 John 2:1-25 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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