

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## GROUP GUIDE: WEEK 3

### CONVERSATION STARTER

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What is your favorite part of a wedding and why?

### WATER INTO WINE

*John 2:1-12*

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Weddings were a time of great celebration in the ancient world, just as they are today. The great feasts that came with weddings were highly anticipated events, where wine flowed freely! For the Prophets of Israel, though, there was one feast in particular they looked forward to. They wrote often of the Great Wedding Feast at the end of the age, which would have rich food and plenty of wine, after which God would “swallow up death forever” and “wipe away tears from all faces” (Isaiah 25:6-8).

Jesus knew about this Feast, too. It’s one reason he referred to the Church as his Bride—he looked forward to this particular wedding. As a reminder of what was to come, Jesus performed a sign at a wedding in Cana. Jesus turned water into wine, and not just any wine, but the *best* wine. Usually, the best wine would be served first, but Jesus is making a statement. He’s saving the *best*, the most significant wine, for *last*. While it’s not yet Jesus’ time, the moment is coming when he will gather his Bride together for the ultimate wedding celebration. He’s saving the *best* for *last*.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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1. When is the last time you went to a wedding? What was it like?
2. John calls Jesus’ actions at the wedding a “sign”—a miraculous event that symbolizes something greater about who Jesus is. When you look back, are there any miraculous or meaningful moments from your own life that helped you better understand or appreciate who Jesus is?
3. In each of the stories coming up, Jesus makes a bold statement about who he is which causes controversy among those he’s with, forcing them to confront their own ideas

about who Jesus claims to be. If someone asked you to rattle off five to ten words describing who Jesus is, what would you say?

4. If the host of this wedding had run out of wine, he would have been publicly embarrassed. Without drawing attention to himself, Jesus provides for the host and his family in abundance. There's now plenty of really good wine, and the host comes out on top. Are there any places in your life where you risk public embarrassment or shame? What would it look like to invite Jesus to take care of you, even in those moments?

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

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Gathering with people is a key part of Jesus' ministry. Like with the wedding in Cana, Jesus often celebrated with people both at grand feasts and intimate gatherings in people's homes. This week, identify someone you'd like to invite to share a meal with. This could be someone you haven't seen in a while or someone you just want to get to know better. It could be a group of people you'd like to invite to your home or one person you want to grab lunch with. How can you make this practice of regularly gathering with people over meals part of your life rhythm?