

From EPIPHANY to the TRANSFIGURATION

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL



Week 2
16 - 22 January 2022



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

Epiphany to Transfiguration (6 Jan – 27 Feb)

- Week 2:** 16 January Jesus changes water into wine
- Week 3:** 23 January Jesus rejected in Nazareth
- Week 4:** 30 January Scripture is fulfilled
- Week 5:** 6 February Jesus calls His first disciples
- Week 6:** 13 February Blessings and woes
- Week 7:** 20 February Love for enemies and judging others
- Week 8:** 27 February The Transfiguration



Week 2

16 January JESUS CHANGES WATER INTO WINE

Epiphany Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Jesus changes water into wine	<u>Isaiah 62:1-5</u>	<u>Psalm 36:5-10</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 12:1-11</u>	<u>John 2:1-11</u>



Prayer, Praise and Worship:

Song Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO-qvwtgTq2Q> Matt Redman (Our God)

GOSPEL John 2:1-11

New International Version - UK

Jesus changes water into wine ² On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ³ and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ⁴ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.' ⁵ 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.' ⁶ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁷ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres. ⁸ Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim. ⁹ Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.' They did so, ¹⁰ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹¹ and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.' ¹² What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection On the Scripture by: Thabang January

Three days after his encounter with Nathaniel; Jesus, his disciples and his mother honour a wedding invitation at Cana in Galilee. John reveals that the wine ran out and quickly, to save the situation and revive the vibe at the wedding, Mary the mother of Jesus told Jesus that there is no more wine. Weddings were celebrated for seven days and were a community celebration. To run short of wine would be a serious embarrassment for the host parents and newlyweds. A community would long remember the shame of a family that failed to provide adequate wine for a wedding. Upon receiving this news Jesus questions why his mother is involving him. He further tells his mother that his hour has not yet come. He was referring to his hour of glorification, where God would be glorified through him. This is Jesus' first act of ministry in this Gospel.

The wedding at Cana is not just an interesting story included at random but provides clues to the meaning of the rest of this Gospel. His mother tells servants to do exactly what Jesus instructs them, and they obliged humbly. They filled the six jars with water, and they filled it to the brim. In his commentary of the Gospel of John, William Barclay notes that the Jews regard seven as a perfect or complete number, and six as incomplete. Barclay believes that the six jars "stand for all the imperfections of the Jewish law" (Barclay, 89). When they tasted the water, it was turned into wine. Jesus worked this miracle quietly. Only his mother and his disciples knew that he was responsible. The stewards even commented that the bridegroom kept the best for last while traditionally everyone brings the best first and the cheaper version later. Richard Bauckham makes the following comment with regards to the words of the steward on the odd behavior of the groom "God has done a very surprising thing. He has saved up till last his very best gift to Israel and the world. His best gift was not in Israel's past, when he gave Moses the law and Israel the land. He has kept the best wine until the coming of Jesus". This, then, becomes a story about moving from the water of the law and prophets to the wine of Jesus' grace (Bauckham, 490).

After witnessing the sign which revealed his glory, the disciples believed in him. This is the point of the story. The purpose of Jesus' signs is to inspire belief. Indeed, the stated purpose of this Gospel is "that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31). Therefore, in the Cana story, we can understand the wine that Jesus provides as a face-saving gift to the groom and his family, or we can receive it as sign that is leading us to also believe in Jesus as the disciples did...



QUESTIONS

Small Group Questions:

1. What's your favorite part of this story? How does it speak to your life?
2. Why do you think Jesus tells Mary that 'his hour has not yet come'?
3. What lesson can we learn from verse 5?



Daily Bible reading, memory verse and prayer:

MONDAY, January 17, 2022: [Psalm 145](#); [Isaiah 54:1-8](#); [Romans 12:9-21](#)

Memory Verse: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." (Romans 12:9)

Prayer: Gracious loving God, help me to choose and hold on to love. Help me cling to what is good. Help me to hate and flee from evil. Amen.

TUESDAY, January 18, 2022: [Psalm 145](#); [Song of Solomon 4:1-8](#); [1 Corinthians 1:3-17](#)

Memory Verse: "He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 1:8)

Prayer: Dear God, please keep me firm to the end as you promised in your word, so that I may be found blameless until the day of my Lord, Jesus Christ.

WEDNESDAY, January 19, 2022: [Psalm 145](#); [Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1](#); [Luke 5:33-39](#)

Memory Verse: "And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'" (Luke 5:39)

Prayer: Lord, God – I pray that my faith is renewed and revived every day. May I be a better person every new day than I was the previous day.

THURSDAY, January 20, 2022: [Psalm 19](#); [Isaiah 61:1-7](#); [Romans 7:1-6](#)

Memory Verse: "But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code." (Romans 7:6)

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for releasing me from the bonds of the law so that I can serve in the new way in the Spirit.

FRIDAY, January 21, 2022: [Psalm 19](#); [Nehemiah 2:1-10](#); [Romans 12:1-8](#)

Memory Verse: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

Prayer: Gracious Loving Father, transform me with your Holy Spirit and renew my mind daily that I never conform to the binding patterns of this world.

SATURDAY, January 22, 2022: [Psalm 19](#); [Nehemiah 5:1-13](#); [Luke 2:39-52](#)

Memory Verse: "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49)

Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven, I long to remain in your house for all the days of my life.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 16 January - Week 2

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement All devotions should always begin with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11

Activity/Family Moment:

Listen to the song 'Miracles' by Elevation worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Viiw6tGimHo>

This passage is very important as it was Jesus first miracle and it marked the beginning of His ministry (preaching, teaching and healing etc.)

What do you think a miracle is? (A Miracle is an amazing, beneficial event that goes (or at least seems to go) against natural laws. Some people say that a miracle is always an **act brought about by God** or other supernatural force (such as an angel).

Did you know Jesus preformed at least 4 different types of Miracles. Do you know what they are? (**Healing miracles:** Jesus healed people who were sick or disabled, **Exorcism:** the act of freeing someone of demons, **Restoration of Life:** there are three occasion in the gospel eyes Jesus raises people from the dead and **Nature miracle:** A miracle in which Jesus shows his power over nature)

Have you ever experienced a miracle?