



WEEKLY STUDY

Week One

We started a new series within our year-long study of the Gospel of John. Between now and Easter we will explore the miracles of Jesus. Buckle up! This is going to be a wild ride towards the biggest miracle in the history of the world...Easter. This week is an introduction to the miracles of Jesus, looking first at a wedding feast in Cana when the wine ran out. How does Jesus show up in ordinary things like water and wine?

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*Jesus,
You have indeed moved into our neighborhood.
You have come not just to be near to us,
But in order to change us.
It is miraculous that you would walk among us,
It is beyond our imagination that you would change our circumstances.
See our need today and work a miraculous intervention to
Restore us to life in you.
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 2.1-8

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ *"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."*

⁵ *His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*

⁶ *Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.*

⁷ *Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.*

⁸ Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

- This was the set up for the first recorded miracle of Jesus. Notice that Jesus called for the repurposing of six stone water jars. These were not the typical vessels for wine. They held water for pre-dinner washing. Jesus requested that servants fill the jars with water, but what was asked of him was to solve the wine shortage. The servants had to suspend all they knew about the jars and the situation in order to respond to his command. As far as they knew, they were about to carry water to the master of the banquet. The start of a miracle often requires that we suspend what we *know*, and replace it with what is *possible* for Jesus.
- *Jesus, may I have the faith to pick up the ordinary resources around me while filled with anticipation that you will turn them into what is needed.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 2.9-11

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 ¹⁰ 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.”

¹¹ *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.*

- This scene was more strange than it might appear. The master of the banquet (as Pastor Gary called him, *the semalier*) tasted wine out of a water jar. That wasn't normal. The servants might have wondered what the master might find when he poured a glass. They must have been relieved and shocked to see wine (much less the best wine) poured out. Have there been dramatic moments in your own life where the miraculous work of God was revealed?
- *God, thank you for the surprising ways you show up. Help me to see your love poured out in all kinds of signs and wonders everyday.*

WEDNESDAY: EPHESIANS 3.20 (MSG)

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

- We can not always explain the ways God works. We can try—and in fact it's good to put words to (testify to) what God has done—but we won't fully understand His ways. We can't out-dream God! And so, we give praise to the God who works within us through the Spirit. We look to remain in the gentle flow of God's Spirit. When was the last time you said, “Wow God!”
- *Wow God! You are a bigger dreamer than me. Expand my imagination and yet surprise me at every turn.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 18.27-30

Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

²⁸ *Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!”*

²⁹ *“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”*

- In this week's message, Pastor Gary challenged us to expect the impossible. Jesus' words recorded in Luke 18 came in response to an exchange with a rich man who was told that it is easier for a camel to walk through the eye of a needle than a rich man to see the Kingdom of God. Impossible. It can be hard to expect anything good out of impossible situations. But Jesus brings relief to the hearts of those who feared that no one might be saved (including Peter). Jesus seemed to say, "God can do it. Don't carry your possessions around—just your cross—and follow me."
- *Jesus, shift my expectations so that I can confidently lay down my life and follow you.*

FRIDAY: JOB 5.8-11

*"But if I were you, I would appeal to God;
I would lay my cause before him.*

⁹*He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed,
miracles that cannot be counted.*

¹⁰*He provides rain for the earth;
he sends water on the countryside.*

¹¹*The lowly he sets on high,
and those who mourn are lifted to safety.*

- Job had recently lost everything. His family and his livelihood were gone. These words from his friend were intended to help him in his loss. These words very early in the story foreshadow what's ahead. It was a hard road filled with lots of wrestling with God, but in the end, Job has a family and his livelihood is restored. A reminder of the miracles of God can serve as a lifeline when everything seems to be lost.
- *God, you have provided what I need. Let your provision be a sign to me that you will continue to give me life.*

SATURDAY: MARK 16.17-20

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

¹⁹*After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.²⁰ Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

- Signs accompany belief. Many of us have a healthy distrust of tricksters and showmen who manipulate others with false signs and wonders. But we cannot let go of this promise from Jesus. People will be made well within a community of believers. God will show up and amazing things will happen!
- *God, I am open and expecting the signs of your power that show up in a community of believers focused on your Son Jesus.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Why do you think Jesus' first recorded miracle is turning water into wine? Was it a strange request from his mother?
- Explore the significance of the six stone jars used to produce the miracle. Pastor Gary mentioned a teaching from the Anchor Bible Commentary that pointed out that Jesus himself became a vessel to be poured out—becoming the seventh jar. Seven is an important number of perfection in the Bible.
- This miracle also took place on “the third day”. Why might that fact be significant?