

# WHEN YES MAKES NO SENSE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- Leaders Lab, March 15, 6:30 Knox Church
- Easter Experience, April 1, 10:30AM & 6:30PM
- 4th Anniversary, April 8, Worship 10:30PM & Banquet 6:30PM

## PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- A greater experience of LIVING faith.
- Trailblazing opportunities for you and your group.
- A biblical worldview life.

## GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

To learn what it means to experience living faith.

**ICE BREAKER:** *What adventurous thing or activity have you done lately?*

**INTRODUCTION:** There are two facets of faith in the Bible—kind a like the two sides of one coin. *Saving Faith* is the faith that brings us to salvation by God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). The other is *Living Faith* in which your belief in God's Word and His promises propels you to go on adventures of obedience to His Word with complete reliance on His power.

## READ JOHN 2:1-11.

**The Wedding Feast.** A few days after Jesus was baptized and he had recruited his disciples, they all attend a wedding in Cana.

**The Wine Runs Out.** Wine (then and now) is an important symbol of festivities. It is important to note that, Bible does *not* prohibit drinking, but the Bible does teach us that we should not get drunk (read Ephesians 5:18). As we read, the wine runs out in the middle of the festivities which was a big deal. On the one hand, it culturally embarrassing; but on the other, in the Ancient Middle East, the bride's family or the wedding guests themselves could take legal action against a groom's family who fails to provide well enough for a wedding feast.

**The Troubled Hostess.** Mary, Jesus' mother is greatly concerned that the wine ran out. Most Bible scholars believe that the groom might have been a relative of Mary, otherwise, she would not have been that deeply concerned. So, her deep concern drove her to talk to her oldest son. Verse 3 says, ...Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

**The Unworried Son.** By the way Jesus responded, we see that Jesus knew His timetable. There is a sense of order and destiny in the measured way He moves through. He was not going to do the showy, spectacular miracle to draw attention to himself. Despite Jesus' response, Mary did not question him or go away disappointed. She simply trusted him to solve the problem by telling the servants: "Do whatever he tells you."

**The Obedient Servants.** In response to Jesus' command, the servants fill six large stone water jars with water. Can you imagine what the servants must have thought when a guest told them to fill all six water jars with water that each held 20-30 gallons of water. They don't just turn the tap, they had to do the hard task of drawing water from the village well; but they did so anyway without question or complaining.

**The Unsuspecting Guests.** The master of the ceremonies knew that they were out of wine one moment and had the best wine the next. He and the guests knew nothing about what had transpired out in the back.

**The First Miracle.** Jesus had supernatural power and could use it any way he chose. He could speak, touch, or just simply will it to be done as he did here. This unique miracle was a sign pointing to what he came to do. In the Jewish religion, wine is a symbol of the presence of the Messiah. This first miracle of Jesus is simple, but it was a sign that the Messiah has arrived.

## Connection and Action

*Questions to promote conversation and connection*

What makes weddings so special?

What makes weddings a difficult time?

Why do people want their wedding to be so perfect?

What would you do if you run out of food at your party?

## Bible and Belief

*Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.*

Why is it significant that Jesus' first miracle happened at a wedding?

What did the miracle of Jesus prove that day?

If you had been one of the servants how would you have felt about what Jesus said, "Fill the jars...draw some out...take some to..."?

The servants willingly took the water to the master, what does this say about them?

From the conversation between Mary and Jesus we learn that Jesus is greater than Mary and the servants, and they all yielded to Him. What can we learn about yielding from this story?

Mary and the servants yielded to Christ and so should we. Why do you think most Christians don't experience the power of Jesus in greater ways?

## Growing in Leadership

*Questions to help people grow as leaders.*

Where do you need to see the hand of Jesus turning the ordinary things of your life into extraordinary things?

What does it take for such a miracle to place in your life?

Pastor said, "*We all pray for instant answers and call it faith, but what Jesus wants from us is faithfulness.*" The crucial part of the miracle in Cana was the servants' obedience to Jesus' word. What is God teaching you today in relation to the miracle you expect Him to do in your life?

The three lessons Pastor Jon shared are:

**Yield to Jesus.**

**Eliminate/Elevate voices.**

**Start Trailblazing.**

Which of the three do you struggle with the most?

Pastor said, "*We want to be people who say YES to Jesus. It is the only way for us to trailblaze in faith.*" How can you (or we, as group) start trailblazing for Jesus? What role do we play in making unknown territories known, and attempting great things for God as a church?

What steps are you taking in order for you to experience LIVING FAITH in your life?