DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · HIGH SCHOOL

Water Into Wine

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 07 · October 25, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: John calls Jesus' first miracle a "sign": it points beyond itself to who Jesus is. At a village wedding, Jesus fills the stone jars of Jewish purification with the best wine of the feast. The old way of trying to make ourselves clean gives way to something far better, Jesus Himself. The sign "manifested his glory," and the right response is to believe.

Read together: John 2:1–12 · John 1:14–17 · Exodus 7:17–21 · John 20:30–31. Memory verse: John 2:11.

Time: 25–30 minutes. Let them wrestle with question 9. The goal is honesty about what they are actually trusting, not a right answer.

WARM UP

1. **Pastor Tom said we use the word "miracle" for almost anything. Define a miracle in your own words. Why does it matter whether we use the word carefully?**
   His definition: God acting in a way that goes beyond the normal workings of nature.

THE SETTING

2. **A first-century wedding meant a year-long betrothal, a torchlit procession, the whole village, and up to seven days of celebration. Why do you think John's first sign happens at a party instead of in a synagogue or the temple?**
   Jesus participated in everyday life. He wasn't off in a corner judging people for enjoying life; He was there with them.

3. **Mary says, "They have no wine." Jesus answers, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." Is Jesus being rude? What is He saying about His relationship to His mother and to the Father?**
   "Woman" is the same word He uses tenderly from the cross (19:26). MacArthur: Mary had to recognize Him "not so much as a son whom she raised but as the promised Messiah and Son of God."

4. **Track Jesus' "hour" through John: 2:4, 7:30, 12:23, 13:1, 17:1. What is His hour, and why does it matter that it comes up in His very first sign?**

THE SIGN

5. **John tells us the six jars were "for the Jewish rites of purification." Why include that detail? What do the jars represent?**
   Stone was used because it couldn't become ritually unclean. The jars represent the old way: people trying to make themselves clean.

6. **Six jars at 20–30 gallons each is 120–180 gallons of the best wine. What does the size of this sign say about Jesus?**

7. **Moses' first plague turned water into blood (Exodus 7). Jesus' first sign turned water into wine. Read John 1:17. How does that contrast fit what John is saying?**
   Guzik: the water into blood shows "that the Law results in death," while water into wine shows "the gladness and joy of His new work." The BKC: "God has kept the best gift (His Son) until now."

8. **John says this sign “manifested his glory” (2:11). Connect that to 1:14 (“we have seen his glory”) and 20:31. What is John trying to do to you as a reader?**

SO WHAT

9. **The servants knew where the wine came from; the guests just enjoyed it. It is possible to enjoy the benefits of Christianity without actually trusting Christ. What “stone jars” (church attendance, being a good person, a reputation) are you relying on instead of Jesus Himself?**
   The question isn’t whether they do good things. It is whether they are trusting those things to make them right with God.

THIS WEEK

Name your “stone jar”: the religious effort or goodness you have been relying on to feel right with God. Then set it down and trust Jesus instead. Memorize John 2:11.

Next week: Week 8 · Zeal for His House · John 2:13–25 · November 1, 2026