

ADULT SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Water Into Wine

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

LEADER OVERVIEW

Big idea: John never calls Jesus' miracles "miracles." He calls them "signs," because they point beyond themselves to who Jesus is. At Cana, 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 call is to see it and believe.

Sermon outline: Jesus participated in everyday life (vv.1–2) · Jesus' actions were surrendered to the will of the Father (vv.3–5) · Jesus performed His first miracle, mostly in private (vv.6–10) · Jesus revealed His glory (vv.11–12).

Scriptures used: John 2:1–12 · John 19:26 · John 1:14–17 · Exodus 7:17–21 · John 20:30–31

Time: 60–75 minutes. Eleven questions are more than you need — choose what fits your group and skip freely. Questions in bold are the ones not to skip.

OPENING (10 MIN)

The goal of the opener is to get every voice in the room once before the harder questions arrive. Keep it light.

1. What is the most memorable wedding you have ever attended, and what made it memorable?
2. **Pastor Tom opened with things we call "miracles": a game-winning field goal, a parking spot by the door, a struggling student passing an exam. What have you called a miracle? Where would you draw the line between God's ordinary kindness and a true miracle?**

EVERYDAY LIFE (15 MIN)

Read John 2:1–5.

3. Jesus' first sign happens at a village wedding, not in a synagogue. Pastor Tom said, "Jesus wasn't off in His little corner judging everyone else for enjoying life." How does that picture of Jesus compare with the one many people carry around?
Leader: a first-century wedding meant a year-long betrothal, a torchlit procession, the whole village, and up to seven days of celebration. Cana was a village of maybe a thousand people.
4. **Running out of wine would have shamed the hosts in front of the whole village. Mary brings the problem to Jesus. What does it look like for you to bring an ordinary, even embarrassing, need to Jesus?**
5. "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." MacArthur says Mary had to recognize Him "not so much as a son whom she raised but as the promised Messiah and Son of God." Where are we tempted to relate to Jesus on our terms instead of His?
Leader: "Woman" is the same word Jesus uses tenderly from the cross (19:26). His "hour" points to the cross and resurrection; trace it through 7:30, 12:23, 13:1, and 17:1.
6. Mary didn't fully grasp His words, but she told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Where are you being asked to trust Jesus before you understand?

THE SIGN (20 MIN)

Read John 2:6–12.

- 7. The six stone jars were for Jewish purification. Pastor Tom said they represent “the old way: people trying to make themselves clean.” Jesus filled them with something far better. What “stone jars” do church people tend to rely on?**

Leader: stone was used because it couldn't become ritually unclean. The point isn't that religious practice is bad; it is that it can't make us clean. Only Jesus can.

8. Six jars at 20–30 gallons each: 120–180 gallons. Jesus “didn't just fix the issue but provided in abundance.” Where have you seen Him give more than you asked?
9. Only the servants knew where the wine came from; the guests just enjoyed it. What is the difference between enjoying the benefits of Jesus and actually knowing Him?
10. Guzik: Moses turned water into blood, “showing that the Law results in death,” but Jesus turned water into wine, “showing the gladness and joy of His new work.” Read John 1:17. How has grace through Jesus changed the way you relate to God?

Leader: the BKC puts it simply: “God has kept the best gift (His Son) until now.”

BELIEVE (15 MIN)

- 11. John says this sign “manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him” (2:11), and he wrote the whole book “so that you may believe” (20:31). Every sign points to one question: Who is this man, and will you believe in Him? How would you answer today?**

CLOSING (5 MIN)

Read John 2:11 together. The stone jars represented the old way. Jesus filled them with something far better: Himself. He is all we need.

If someone in your group is still leaning on their own effort to feel right with God, don't rush past it. John wrote this gospel for exactly that person (John 20:31). Pray together that each person would set down their own “jar” and trust Jesus.

Then give the week's assignment: 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.

Memory verse: John 2:11. Next week: Week 8 · Zeal for His House · John 2:13–25 · November 1, 2026