

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL · PRINT EDITION

Water Into Wine

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

JOHN 2:11 (ESV)

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

HOW THIS WORKS

- Five days, Monday through Friday — about ten minutes each. Every day has a prayer to open, a short reading, something to think about, one action step, and a prayer to close.
- This week's homework runs underneath all five days: 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.
- Keep a pen with it. The lines are part of the devotional.
- Prefer your phone? The same devotional is online each week at thesummit.life → The Gospel of John → Reading Plan.

THIS WEEK

Sunday we watched Jesus do His first miracle, and it happened at a party. A village wedding in Cana, a week of celebration, and then the wine ran out. John doesn't call what happened next a miracle. He calls it a sign, because it points past itself to who Jesus is. This week you will take it one scene at a time: Jesus at the wedding, a mother who brought Him the problem, six stone jars filled to the brim, the best wine saved for last, and the glory that made His disciples believe.

DAY 1 · MONDAY

Jesus at the Wedding

JOHN 2:1–2 · PSALM 16:11

Opening prayer*Lord, meet me in the ordinary parts of this week, not just the holy ones. Amen.*

Read John 2:1–2. Before Jesus heals anyone, before He preaches a single sermon in this gospel, He goes to a wedding. Not a synagogue. Not the temple. A party in a small village called Cana, a few miles from Nazareth.

A wedding in Jesus' day was the biggest celebration a village would ever see. A year-long betrothal, then a torchlit procession at night as the groom brought his bride home. The whole village turned out with lamps, music, singing, and shouting. And the feast could last up to seven days.

Jesus was invited, and He came. His disciples came with Him. He wasn't off in a corner judging everyone else for enjoying life. He was there with them, talking, laughing, celebrating.

That matters, because a lot of us carry around a picture of Jesus who only shows up for the serious parts of life: church, crisis, confession. John's first sign says otherwise. Jesus walked into everyday life, and He still does.

Jesus didn't keep His distance from ordinary life. He walked right into it.

Reflect

Where do you tend to keep Jesus at arm's length: your work, your free time, your family, your fun? Write down one ordinary place you have not invited Him into.

Today's action step

Start this week's homework today. At the top of this page, write the "stone jar" you most often lean on to feel right with God: church attendance, being a good person, your Bible streak, your reputation. You will come back to it Wednesday.

Closing prayer*Jesus, You came to the wedding. Come into my ordinary days too. Amen.*

DAY 2 · TUESDAY

They Have No Wine

JOHN 2:3–5 · PSALM 31:14–15

Opening prayer*Lord, teach me to bring You my needs and trust You with the timing. Amen.*

Read John 2:3–5. Somewhere in the middle of the celebration, the wine runs out. In a village where everyone knew everyone, that was more than an inconvenience. It was public shame for the family hosting the wedding, the kind of thing people would remember for years.

Mary notices, and she brings it to Jesus: “They have no wine.” She probably wasn’t expecting a miracle. She had never seen Him do one. She simply brought the need to her Son.

His answer sounds abrupt to us: “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” But “woman” is not disrespect. It is the same word He will speak tenderly to her from the cross (John 19:26). Jesus is telling her that their relationship has changed. He is no longer just the son she raised. He is the Messiah, and everything He does is surrendered to the Father’s plan. His “hour” points to the cross and the resurrection.

And Mary’s response is remarkable. She doesn’t fully grasp what He means, but she turns to the servants and says, “Do whatever he tells you.” She left the problem, and the timing, with Him.

Bring Jesus the need. Leave Him the timing.**Reflect**

What need have you been carrying without bringing it to Jesus? Write it down, then write Psalm 31:15 underneath it: “My times are in your hand.”

Today’s action step

Pray about that need today, out loud if you can. Then say Mary’s words to yourself: “Whatever He tells me, I will do.”

Closing prayer*Jesus, my times are in Your hand. Whatever You tell me, I will do. Amen.*

DAY 3 · WEDNESDAY**Fill the Jars**

JOHN 2:6–8 · TITUS 3:4–7

Opening prayer*Lord, show me what I have been trusting to make me clean. Amen.*

Read John 2:6–8. John slows down here to tell us about the jars. Six of them, made of stone, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. And he tells us what they were for: “the Jewish rites of purification.”

These jars held the water for ceremonial washing. Hands, cups, and utensils were washed so people could be clean before God. They were made of stone because stone couldn’t become ritually unclean. They stood there as a picture of the old way: people trying, over and over, to make themselves clean.

Jesus tells the servants to fill them. They do, “up to the brim,” before they see anything happen. Then He tells them to draw some out and carry it to the master of the feast. They obey again, still not knowing what they are carrying.

Jesus takes the vessels of the old ritual and fills them with something far better. Paul says it plainly in Titus 3: “he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.” The jars could never make anyone clean. Jesus can.

Our best efforts can’t make us clean. Jesus can, and He fills us with something far better.

Reflect

Look at the “stone jar” you wrote at the top of Monday’s page. What has it promised you? What has it actually delivered? Read Titus 3:4–7 and write down what it says about that jar.

Today’s action step

This is the heart of this week’s homework. Set your stone jar down today. Tell God, in your own words, that you are done trusting it to make you right with Him, and that you are trusting Jesus instead.

Closing prayer*Jesus, I can’t make myself clean. I set down my stone jar. You are all I need. Amen.*

DAY 4 · THURSDAY

The Best Wine Last

JOHN 2:9–10 · JOHN 1:16–17

Opening prayer*Lord, open my eyes to how much better You are than anything I settle for. Amen.*

Read John 2:9–10. The master of the feast tastes the water that has become wine. He has no idea where it came from, but the servants who drew it knew. He calls the bridegroom over, surprised: everyone serves the good wine first and the cheap wine later, “But you have kept the good wine until now.”

And there was so much of it. Six jars at twenty or thirty gallons each is 120 to 180 gallons. Jesus didn’t just fix the problem. He provided in abundance.

The guests enjoyed the wine without knowing who made it. Only the servants knew. It is possible to enjoy the benefits of being around Jesus, the good people, the good music, the good feelings, without ever knowing Him. The servants knew because they had obeyed.

John told us in his opening chapter what this is about: “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (1:17). Moses’ first sign turned water into blood. Jesus’ first sign turned water into wine, the gladness and joy of His new work. As one commentary puts it, “God has kept the best gift (His Son) until now.”

God kept the best for last, and the best is Jesus Himself.**Reflect**

Are you more like the guests, enjoying the good things around Jesus, or like the servants, who knew Him because they obeyed? Write down what would have to change to move from one to the other.

Today’s action step

Read John 1:16–17 again and write down one specific way you have received “grace upon grace” from Jesus this year. Thank Him for it by name.

Closing prayer*Jesus, You are the best gift. Let me know You, not just enjoy what is near You. Amen.*

DAY 5 · FRIDAY

He Manifested His Glory

JOHN 2:11–12 · JOHN 20:30–31

Opening prayer*Jesus, let me see Your glory, and let me believe. Amen.*

Read John 2:11–12, then John 20:30–31. This is our memory verse this week, and it is John telling us exactly why he wrote the story down. “This, the first of his signs.” Not a magic trick. Not just a kind favor for a family in trouble. A sign, pointing past itself.

It “manifested his glory.” Back in chapter 1, John said, “we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father” (1:14). At Cana, that glory showed up in six stone jars at a village wedding, and the disciples saw it.

“And his disciples believed in him.” That is the point of the sign, and the point of the whole book. John says at the end, “these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (20:31).

So the week ends where Sunday began. Every sign points to one question: Who is this man, and will you believe in Him? Not in your own effort. Not in your stone jar. In Him.

The sign points to Jesus. The question is whether you will believe in Him.

Reflect

Look back at the stone jar you wrote on Monday. Did you set it down? What changed when you did? Then answer the question this sign asks: Who is Jesus to you, and do you believe in Him?

Today’s action step

Say John 2:11 from memory today. Then tell one person what you saw in Jesus this week. If you have been relying on your own goodness and this week you trusted Jesus instead, tell Him, and then tell someone at Summit on Sunday.

Closing prayer*Jesus, You are the Christ, the Son of God. I have seen Your glory. I believe. Amen.***LOOKING AHEAD**

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