**1. Motivate**

Why are people interested in miraculous or supernatural events?

* they like to see spectacular
* they are excited to see something different
* they want to be entertained
* they hope to get in on the good times
* they want to see if they can prove it wrong, they are skeptical

**2. Transition**

People might try to use Jesus as an ATM or a 911 operator.

* Jesus is more than a miracle worker
* Jesus’ work in our lives is for His glory

**3. Bible Study**

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/4pzvxdcz> If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach it is best to load the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/49mn3fbr>

3.1 Jesus, We’ve Got a Problem

Listen for a problem.

John 2:1-4 (NIV) 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 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

At the wedding celebration, Mary told Jesus the host had run out of wine. What did Jesus remind Mary when he replied?

* why do you involve me?
* My time has not yet come

Why do you think she got Jesus involved?

* she knew He was a kind and capable person
* she knew of His divinity
* she probably had an intimation of the power and authority He could demonstrate

Why do you think Jesus seemed to hesitate to help?

* was not a physical healing problem
* was not a spiritual issue
* was mainly a social event faux pas
* not exactly a ministry problem
* this did not seem to be a good place to begin His ministry
* (did not have to do with abstinence from alcohol)
* was more of an embarrassing issue for the hosts of the wedding party

What did she do to demonstrate trust and understanding that He was more than merely the Son she had raised?

* she went to Him with the problem
* she more or less ignored his hints that this might not be the time and place to demonstrate His divine power
* she told the men to do whatever He told them to do

Why do we find it difficult to sometimes place our needs in Jesus’ hands and trust Him to do what is best?

* suffering sometimes skews or confuses our perception God’s (non) provision in the situation?
* we tend to focus on the problem
* we do not remember to see God as the solution
* we think the situation is too small for God’s attention (we doubt God’s omniscience and love)
* we think the situation is too big for God to handle (we doubt God’s power)
* we somehow lose the ability to trust God … who He says He is, what He says He can do

Jesus was a guest at this wedding. How can we invite Jesus to be an honored guest at all our life events?

* pray God’s presence and blessing before hand
* invoke His presence as part of the event
* thank Him for His oversight of every part of our lives
* dedicate the event to God’s glory

How does understanding Jesus’ mission help you see Him as *more* than a miracle worker or emergency responder?

* His mission was to redeem the world
* He came to die on the cross to achieve our forgiveness
* His purpose is to make people’s lives whole again
* He wants to free men from the penalty and the power of sin
* all of that is far more important than finding us a parking meter with time left or helping us get over the flu
* at the same time know that He loves us and wants to demonstrate His power and authority in all areas of our lives

What difference should this make in your prayers, attitudes and actions?

* be aware more of the needs of the Kingdom/rule of God
* praying more for people’s spiritual needs
* praying more for the salvation of folks we know
* aware more of your own spiritual condition – keeping close to God
* trust Him for power to live to His Glory

3.2 For Jesus, It Was No Problem

Listen for a *quality* miracle.

John 2:5-8 (NIV) 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." They did so,

Mary gave sound advice … “Do whatever He tells you.” What do those instructions imply about her own convictions about Jesus?

* she knew He was the Messiah
* she knew of His power and authority
* she knew of His love and kindness

In what way were Jesus’ instructions not an insignificant task

* fill the 6 jars with water … 120 – 180 gallons
* how close was the water source?
* what did they have to transport the water?
* if they had heard the conversation about the wine, they might have wondered “why water”
* if they had *not* heard about the wine problem, they still might wonder … “180 gallons of water???”

Why is it hard sometimes to do what Jesus tells us to do?

* we might not understand what God is up to
* His task might seem either insignificant or highly difficult
* sometimes we are strong-minded, we want to do things our way
* we balk and God telling us what to do
* remember, responding to God’s command with “no, Lord” is an oxymoron … if Jesus is Lord of one’s life, we cannot be refusing His command

The servants may have felt fear or trepidation taking the sample to the master of the banquet. Why?

* they knew what went into the jars was water
* the MC would not be all that impressed with a cup of water when he knew they were out of wine
* this command didn’t seem to make any logical sense
* they would be the ones embarrassed, not Jesus

What benefits did the servants receive from following Jesus’ command?

* they got to see the results of the miracle first hand
* they saw Jesus’ miracle *in person*

3.3 More than a Cup of Wine

Listen for results of the miracle.

John 2:9-11 (NIV) 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 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

What did the table master think about the wine sample he was given?

* good stuff … usually they poured the good stuff first, then the cheap stuff at the end
* people not as fussy once their thirst has been satisfied
* palates are most sensitive at the beginning of a meal
* later, guests may not notice the difference as taste buds become slightly dulled by the meal.

More than just saving face for the wedding hosts, what was significant about this miracle?

* Jesus’ first miraculous signs
* He thus revealed His glory
* it was a special sign to the disciples, they put their faith in Him
* this was going to be more than just an educational experience to follow this teacher
* this was a spiritual experience for them … this was special …

Why do you think Jesus did not correct the MC and the bridegroom and let it be known that He had done it?

* as He had said earlier, it wasn’t the right time yet
* it was for the purpose of validating His authority to the disciples

What qualities of God do you think weighed heavily and shone brightly to the disciples as they observed Jesus?

* His concern for His mother’s wishes
* He wanted to help out his friends who were in an awkward situation
* He did the miracle quietly, without fanfare, with no expectation of remuneration or recognition
* He created something out of almost nothing

The disciples believed. What things has Jesus accomplished in your life that have increased your faith in Him?

* provided financial needs
* worked out circumstances to the better
* answered prayers
* guided life decisions
* brought loved ones to salvation

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

* protected in dangerous situations

Application

Worship.

* Write down recent decisions, motivations, and actions taken in your life.
* Evaluate how you are using these things to glorify the Lord and point people to Jesus.
* Praise God for His work in your life.

Obey.

* Write down two or three things that God may be calling you to obey Him in doing.
* Pray about how you can begin to act upon those things.
* Draw up an action plan.

Share.

* Take some time to meet with another group member.
* Ask questions about what they are celebrating and how they are handling struggles in their lives.
* What are some needs they have that only Jesus can supply

Crossword Puzzle
Clues & Words from
John 2:1 – 11 (NIV)