



**JANUARY'S THEME**

**COME AND SEE**

SCRIPTURE John 2:1-11

**BOTTOM LINE** THE KINGDOM OF  
GOD IS A CELEBRATION

**MEMORY VERSES**

**LIFE APP** Does the way that you  
follow Jesus reflect a wedding party or  
something else?



• Tonight we will be in the community room for a wedding reception. There will be dancing, cake, and assigned tables.

• Invite your students to wear clothes they would wear to a reception and to be ready to dance!

**MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:**

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**

We continue our series "Come and See" with the Wedding at Cana. In this story, the author of John begins to show us what the Kingdom of God looks like. Rather than being a dour ritual, the Kingdom of God is more like a wedding celebration where there is abundance. It is important for us to be sure that we are reflecting an image of God's kingdom that is consistent with this celebration. Often we make God's kingdom seem like it is all about rules and following directions, when it is really good news for all people!

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your "highs" and "lows" with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week.
- What did you hear tonight? What is the one thing from the message that stuck out to you or made you think in a different way?
- What is the best party that you have ever been to? What made that party so great?
- Do you think that you would ever compare the best party that you have ever been to with your experience of church? Why or why not?
- In the first century (during Jesus' ministry) weddings played a central role in the life of a society. They were community events that not only included the family and friends, but people from all over the community. Many times, and in this case, these celebrations took place against the backdrop of a life that was really hard and provided scarcity rather than abundance. But, at a wedding celebration, the people brought all they had together to create a different kind of experience. That is probably why weddings became a strong symbol of what Jews thought it would look like when the messiah would arrive. Read some of these passages that were used to talk about this moment: Isaiah 25:6-8 and Revelation 19:6-9.
- How do these passages describe these messianic moments?
- Verse 3-4 - The wine supply running out at this type of party would be a disaster! Jesus' mother tells Jesus and his response is interesting. He says that his "hour has not yet come." What do you think he means by that? Throughout



the Gospel of John, the phrase, “my hour,” is used to refer to when Jesus is crucified and is resurrected. There is a lot going on behind the scenes in this back and forth. The most important is that Mary, while she knows who Jesus is, does not fully understand where the story is going. A significant portion of the experience of the disciples is that their understanding of Jesus grows and unfolds as they go as Jesus teaches them. How much has your understanding of who Jesus is changed over time? What have been the experiences that have changed the way you see Jesus?

- Verse 5-7 - Jesus’ mother tells the servants to do “whatever he tells you.” Jesus instructs them to fill the jars with water. How much water are we talking here?
- The water to be stored in these jars was to be used for purification. One important note about religious life for Jews is that they needed to be ritually clean before they could enter into the temple or participate in religious activities. While that means a lot more than just washing your body, it does include that. Here Jesus is connecting himself to this water that makes you pure so that you can participate in God’s space (think temple) and then giving it all a new world of meaning by changing the water to wine and using it for a wedding celebration. Woah. In sum, Jesus is saying that he is the way into a relationship with God, and then he is saying that this relationship with God is more like a party than anything else. Is this the way that you understand Jesus? Is this the way that you envision heaven? Why or why not?
- Verse 9-10 - The water jars are taken to the Master of Ceremonies who is in charge of keeping the wedding party going. This guy knows how to throw a party that is going to go on for a while. He knows that you are supposed to give the guests the good wine first and then swap it out with the bad wine after they can’t taste it (cause they’re drunk). He is surprised to find that the wine being brought out now is even better than what they started with and is elated that he can keep the party going. While you are not going to be throwing any parties with alcohol any time soon, how do you see yourself as a Master of Ceremonies for social events that should show people what God is like? If you don’t see yourself that way, where do you think you would start?
- Verse 11 - This verse says that this is the first time that “Jesus revealed his glory.” As a result, John says that the disciples “believed in him.” Miracles are actions that are not exclusive to God. Glory is a God-thing. Something that happens often in the gospels is that the disciples and other people think that Jesus is a prophet or some other miracle making person. It isn’t until “glory” starts to get involved that their understanding of who he is gets rattled. Do you think that there has been a moment in your life in worship, in nature, in a relationship where the glory of God has been present? What was that like?



# EXTRAS

## BE THE CELEBRATION

**What You Need:** Music playing device (phone works)

**What you Do:** Tonight we talked about the way that the Kingdom of God has a lot in common with a wedding celebration. Tonight, gather your group and surprise another group with an impromptu celebration. It doesn't have to last long or be super elaborate, but pop into the room, play some music, sing a song, do a dance, or lead a cheer that illustrates the celebration that is the Kingdom of God.

# JUST FOR FUN

## WEDDING RECEPTION MAD LIB

**What You Need:** Mad Lib form, pens

**What You Do:** Hand out a Mad Lib form to every group member. Have them independently fill in the blanks and then share their letters to the happy couple.