



One Hope Community Church

Book of John Small Group Study

Chapter 2

How to effectively use this guide:

During the fall and the early winter of 2023, we will be digging into the Book of John, one chapter per week. This guide is intended to give you an additional tool to dig into this scripture at an even deeper level with your small group.

We suggest that you break each chapter in smaller chunks throughout the week. (NOTE: We have given you a sample reading plan below.)

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures even more and provide discussion points for your meeting.

When you meet, we suggest meeting for 90 minutes to 2 hours, asking a different person each week to bring a snack to share, allowing for time to connect, worship, discuss what was read, and pray for each other.

Please go over the agreement below as a small group the first time you meet and each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.

- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking for your group.

Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Worship: Miracles - Colton Dixon

<https://youtu.be/OcOS9j-NXRQ?si=1pGMaBdnMRFoCH0Y>

Read Scripture / Answer Questions

Closing prayer

Week #2 Reading Plan

Day 1: John 2:1-5

Day 2: John 2:6-11

Day 3: John 2:12-17

Day 4: John 2:18-22

Day 5: John 2:23-25

In Jesus's time, weddings tended to be 5-7 days. Running out of wine during this time could damage the family's reputation. Jesus, His mom and the disciples being present means they would have known the families. Knowing that a family's reputation is at stake with running out of wine, how does that affect your view of Mary asking Jesus for help? What new thoughts do you have about how Jesus cares for the details in your life?

In John 2:3-5, Mary tells Jesus that the wine is gone. She does not ask Him to do anything specific, but does tell the servants to do whatever He asks. How would your conversations with Jesus be different if you were ready to do whatever He asked? How has God shown up for you unexpectedly when you asked for His help or direction without telling Him HOW you wanted Him to answer?

Jewish history teaches that marriages are a reenactment of what happened between God and the Jewish people on Mt Sinai (Exodus 19). Jesus often used Jewish marriage customs as an allegory of God's relationship with the church. He called Himself the Bridegroom (Matthew 9:14-15, Mark 2:18-20, Luke 5:33-35). In Revelation 21:2, the Church is called the Bride. Given the Jewish history and the allegory of the Church being His Bride, what parallels do you see for why Jesus chose to have His first miracle be at a wedding? As part of God's Church, you are part of His Bride. What does this stir in you?

The stone jars mentioned in verse 6 were for the Jewish rites of purification. The jars and the water put in them were to cleanse the body and remove any impurities that a person may have, physically or spiritually. Therefore, the jars were also a representation of the Law. Jesus later calls Himself "living water" (John 4:10, 7:37-39) and uses wine as a remembrance of His sacrifice (Matthew 26:26-29, Luke 22:17-38). He also says in Matthew 5:17 that He came to fulfill the Law. He is the purification for us. Water into wine. Fulfillment of the Law by obeying it perfectly, when we cannot. How do these parallels and foreshadowing strengthen your faith?

When a person wanted to worship at the temple, the first thing they had to do was sacrifice an animal to take away their sins and be made right with God. In verse 14-16 we read that there were people selling cattle, sheep and doves in the temple. The sellers knew what the people needed and were making a profit. The doves were bought by the poor and women who could not afford the more expensive sacrifices. Seeing this, Jesus took time to make a whip (and then used it to drive the sellers and money changers out of the temple). What might He have been thinking as He made the whip? How does the knowing that His anger was a righteous anger, one that was in defense of His Church, the poor and women, affect your view of this story? What actions can you have in treasuring the things He treasured (the Church, the poor and women)?

The Jewish leaders challenged Jesus for signs, demanding miracles. How did Jesus respond? We are often not much different from those Jewish leaders, asking God for miracles. Thinking about this in two different ways - How have your requests mimicked their demands? How have your requests pointed to faith in what He can do?