

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Seven Signs of John Series

These questions are for the **September 17, 2023** message, "The best for last." Please read the sermon passage (John 2:1-11) together out loud.

Passage Outline

KEEP TRUSTING IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSES, EVEN WHEN . . .

1. Resources seem to be diminishing. (1-3)
 - a. God ordained: the wine ran out, Mary was responsible, and Jesus was present.
 - b. Mary did not tell Jesus what to do, but simply appealed to him for help.
2. Timing seems unclear. (4-5)
 - a. While Jesus' "hour" of passion / crucifixion was not yet present . . .
 - b. Yet here, at a wedding (Isaiah 54:4-8), Jesus consecrates his public ministry.
 - c. He performs a sign, intended to reveal his identity, the promised Messiah.
3. Efforts seem futile. (6-8)
 - a. The servants are instructed to fill water jars with water.
 - b. Oftentimes, Christ calls us to do the next faithful thing, which seem futile.
4. Credit seems misapplied. (9-11)
 - a. The earthly bridegroom gets the credit.
 - b. But Jesus, the disciples, Mary and the servants know what really happened.
 - c. Christ did a miracle to reveal his identity to those who would receive it.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God will orchestrate situations in your life that you cannot improve or control with your resources. He does this so that we will learn to turn to him and trust him. In what way are you learning to trust the Lord because of diminished resources?
2. Based on #2, above: When we are humbled by God, it is best to empty ourselves of expected outcomes and simply ask him for help. How has your prayer life been transformed by learning to empty our own desires and preferences from expected outcomes, and just ask for "Help!"
3. Based on #3, above: We are often asked to do faithful things (participate in ministry, go to family functions, fill water jars with water) that seem mundane and even pointless while we wait. Yet God employs those faithful acts, and often brings fruit from them. What are you learning about "mundane faithfulness" while you wait for God's answers?
4. Based on #4, above: We will not all get specific tangible and positive answers to prayer, but we can all allow this miracle (sign) to help us to see that Jesus Christ is the one and only Messiah, promised by God, to pay for the rebellion and penalty of sin which we all deserve. Only the Holy Spirit can give us eyes to see this wonderful, life-changing reality. Read verse 11. In what ways do you see the glory of Jesus? When did you first believe in Jesus Christ?