

# The Gospel of John (2:1-11)

## A House Church Outline



### 1. Praise *(Purpose: To worship God)*

- What are you thankful for this week? *(let the group's secretary write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook)*
- Song Service
  - Sing a few songs of praise to God

### 2. Pray *(Purpose: To carry each others' burdens and to seek the Lord)*

- What challenges did you have this week? *(write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook)*
- Go into a season of prayer

### 3. Review *(Purpose: To learn accountability)*

- Tell us how it went with what you promised to do in last week's meeting? *(e.g. Who did your share your faith with this past week? Who did you minister to? How did actioning your I WILL STATEMENT go?)*
- Where people have failed to fulfil what they said they would, do not be harsh with them but gently encourage them to try again in the coming week. Give them more support by phoning or joining them in the week.

### 4. Give *(Purpose: To be good stewards of our monies)*

- This is the time to return tithes and offerings. If done electronically, kindly ensure that you get the bank account details of your local church from your treasurer. Don't forget to complete an envelope and to send the breakdown to him/her.

### 5. Discover *(Purpose: To learn to listen to God, and be obedient to His Word)*

- **Notes for the facilitator**

- Read *Desire of Ages (DA)*, p. 144-153
- "As Mary had heard the disciples' testimony in regard to Jesus[at the wedding], she had been gladdened with the assurance that her long-cherished hopes were not in vain. Yet she would have been more than human if there had not mingled with this holy joy a trace of the fond mother's natural pride. As she saw the many glances bent upon Jesus, **she longed to have Him prove to the company that He was really the Honored of God. She hoped there might be opportunity for Him to work a miracle before them.** (DA 145)
- Vs 4: "**This answer, abrupt as it seems to us, expressed no coldness or discourtesy. The Saviour's form of address to His mother was in accordance with Oriental custom. It was used toward persons to whom it was desired to show respect.** Every act of Christ's earthly life was in harmony with the precept He Himself had given, 'Honor thy father and thy mother.' Exodus 20:12. On the cross, in His last act of tenderness toward His mother, Jesus again addressed her in the same way, as He committed her to the care of His best-loved disciple. Both at the marriage feast and upon the cross, the love expressed in tone and look and manner interpreted His words" (DA 146)
- Vs 4: In this verse, at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He says that His hour had not yet come. Later, on the verge of His death, He says that His hour 'has come' (John 12:23-24). Thus Jesus lived on purpose, daily being directed by His Father.
- Vs 4: "**There was danger that Mary would regard her relationship to Jesus as giving her a special claim upon Him, and the right, in some degree, to direct Him in His mission.** For thirty years He had been to her a loving and obedient son, and His love was unchanged; but He must now go about His Father's work. **As Son of the Most High, and Saviour of the world, no earthly ties must hold Him from His mission, or influence**

- His conduct. He must stand free to do the will of God.** This lesson is also for us. The claims of God are paramount even to the ties of human relationship. No earthly attraction should turn our feet from the path in which He bids us walk” (DA 146)
- Vs 4: “The words, ‘Mine hour is not yet come,’ point to the fact that **every act of Christ's life on earth was in fulfillment of the plan that had existed from the days of eternity.** Before He came to earth, the plan lay out before Him, perfect in all its details. But as He walked among men, He was guided, step by step, by the Father's will. He did not hesitate to act at the appointed time. With the same submission He waited until the time had come. **In saying to Mary that His hour had not yet come, Jesus was replying to her unspoken thought,—to the expectation she cherished in common with her people.** She hoped that He would reveal Himself as the Messiah, and take the throne of Israel. But the time had not come. Not as a King, but as “a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief,” had Jesus accepted the lot of humanity. But though Mary had not a right conception of Christ's mission, she trusted Him implicitly. To this faith Jesus responded. **It was to honor Mary's trust, and to strengthen the faith of His disciples, that the first miracle was performed. The disciples were to encounter many and great temptations to unbelief.** To them the prophecies had made it clear beyond all controversy that Jesus was the Messiah. They looked for the religious leaders to receive Him with confidence even greater than their own. They declared among the people the wonderful works of Christ and their own confidence in His mission, but they were amazed and bitterly disappointed by the unbelief, the deep-seated prejudice, and the enmity to Jesus, displayed by the priests and rabbis. **The Saviour's early miracles strengthened the disciples to stand against this opposition.** (DA 147)
  - “The water to fill the jars was brought by human hands, but the word of Christ alone could impart to it life-giving virtue” (DA 148)
  - “**At the first feast He attended with His disciples, Jesus gave them the cup that symbolized His work for their salvation.** At the last supper He gave it again, in the institution of that sacred rite by which His death was to be shown forth ‘till He come.’ 1 Corinthians 11:26. And the sorrow of the disciples at parting from their Lord was comforted with the promise of reunion, as He said, ‘I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.’ Matthew 26:29” (DA 149)
  - “**The wine which Christ provided for the feast, and that which He gave to the disciples as a symbol of His own blood, was the pure juice of the grape.** To this the prophet Isaiah refers when he speaks of the new wine “in the cluster,” and says, ‘Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it.’ Isaiah 65:8. It was Christ who in the Old Testament gave the warning to Israel, ‘Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.’ Proverbs 20:1. And He Himself provided no such beverage. Satan tempts men to indulgence that will becloud reason and benumb the spiritual perceptions, but Christ teaches us to bring the lower nature into subjection. His whole life was an example of self-denial. In order to break the power of appetite, He suffered in our behalf the severest test that humanity could endure. It was Christ who directed that John the Baptist should drink neither wine nor strong drink. It was He who enjoined similar abstinence upon the wife of Manoah. And He pronounced a curse upon the man who should put the bottle to his neighbor's lips. **Christ did not contradict His own teaching. The unfermented wine which He provided for the wedding guests was a wholesome and refreshing drink.** Its effect was to bring the taste into harmony with a healthful appetite” (DA 149)
    - **Note:** The Greek word for *wine* in the Bible is the same word used for **both** fermented wine, and for grape juice. Today *wine* refers to fermented drink, and many people thus think that it has to refer to a fermented beverage.

- Because of its natural and nourishing properties, grape juice was fittingly used in the Bible to represent the blessing of the messianic age (Joel 2:18-19; Jer. 31:10-12; Amos 9:13, 14), the free offer of God's saving grace (Isa. 55:1), the wholesome joy God offers to His people (Ps 104:14-15; 4:7). The theological significance comes through in that Jesus through this miracle also announces the arrival of the Messianic age, and His free offer of grace.
- "The ministry of Christ was in marked contrast to that of the **Jewish elders**. Their regard for tradition and formalism had destroyed all real freedom of thought or action. They lived in continual dread of defilement. **To avoid contact with the 'unclean,' they kept aloof, not only from the Gentiles, but from the majority of their own people, seeking neither to benefit them nor to win their friendship.** By dwelling constantly on these matters, they had dwarfed their minds and narrowed the orbit of their lives. Their example encouraged egotism and intolerance among all classes of the people" (DA 150).
- "**Jesus reprov'd self-indulgence in all its forms, yet He was social in His nature. He accepted the hospitality of all classes, visiting the homes of the rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, and seeking to elevate their thoughts from questions of commonplace life to those things that are spiritual and eternal.** He gave no license to dissipation, and no shadow of worldly levity marred His conduct; yet He found pleasure in scenes of innocent happiness, and by His presence sanctioned the social gathering. A Jewish marriage was an impressive occasion, and its joy was not displeasing to the Son of man. By attending this feast, Jesus honored marriage as a divine institution" (DA 150).
- "**Jesus** saw in every soul one to whom must be given the call to His kingdom. He reached the hearts of the people by going among them as one who desired their good. **He sought them in the public streets, in private houses, on the boats, in the synagogue, by the shores of the lake, and at the marriage feast.** He met them at their daily vocations, and manifested an interest in their secular affairs. He carried His instruction into the household, bringing families in their own homes under the influence of His divine presence. His strong personal sympathy helped to win hearts. He often repaired to the mountains for solitary prayer, but this was a preparation for His labor among men in active life. From these seasons He came forth to relieve the sick, to instruct the ignorant, and to break the chains from the captives of Satan" (DA 151)
- "**It was by personal contact and association that Jesus trained His disciples.** Sometimes He taught them, sitting among them on the mountainside; sometimes beside the sea, or walking with them by the way, He revealed the mysteries of the kingdom of God. **He did not sermonize as men do today. Wherever hearts were open to receive the divine message, He unfolded the truths of the way of salvation.** He did not command His disciples to do this or that, but said, 'Follow Me.' On His journeys through country and cities He took them with Him, that they might see how He taught the people. He linked their interest with His, and they united with Him in the work" (DA 152).
- "**The example of Christ in linking Himself with the interests of humanity should be followed by all who preach His word, and by all who have received the gospel of His grace. We are not to renounce social communion.** We should not seclude ourselves from others. In order to reach all classes, we must meet them where they are. They will seldom seek us of their own accord. Not alone from the pulpit are the hearts of men touched by divine truth. There is another field of labor, humbler, it may be, but fully as promising. It is found in the home of the lowly, and in the mansion of the great; at the hospitable board, and in gatherings for innocent social enjoyment" (DA 152)
- "**As disciples of Christ we shall not mingle with the world from a mere love of pleasure, to unite with them in folly. Such associations can result only in harm. We**

should never give sanction to sin by our words or our deeds, our silence or our presence. Wherever we go, we are to carry Jesus with us, and to reveal to others the preciousness of our Saviour. But **those who try to preserve their religion by hiding it within stone walls lose precious opportunities of doing good. Through the social relations, Christianity comes in contact with the world.** Everyone who has received the divine illumination is to brighten the pathway of those who know not the Light of life” (DA 152)

- “We should all become witnesses for Jesus. **Social power, sanctified by the grace of Christ, must be improved in winning souls to the Saviour.** Let the world see that we are not selfishly absorbed in our own interests, but that we desire others to share our blessings and privileges. **Let them see that our religion does not make us unsympathetic or exacting.** Let all who profess to have found Christ, minister as He did for the benefit of men” (DA 152).
- **Vs 11: Revealed His glory** - That is, He gave evidence of His divine character and power. Jesus glory was to be ultimately revealed on the Cross (John 12:12-24)
- *Read John 2:1-11. Preferably let one person read it. Let everyone then put down their Bibles and get the group to reconstruct the passage in their own words. This teaches the group to be careful in quotation Scripture correctly and to use it as the basis of their discussions.*
- **Discussion Questions** (use only a few). *The notes in italics after some of the questions below are for the facilitator, and not to be read out to the group.*
  - Jesus was on a mission to save the world and he had no time to dedicate to non-essential issues. Why do you then think He attended a wedding? What role did His attendance play in His overall mission? *(ask one question at a time)*
  - What are the benefits of mixing with people socially in order to win them for Christ?
  - Give practical examples of how to do friendship evangelism?
  - Why do you think Jesus responded to His mother like that (vs 4)?
  - Why could the wine that Jesus made, not be alcoholic?
  - Why do you think Jesus involved people in this miracle (vss 7-8)? What important principle does this express about the Christian life?
  - How do you think Jesus’ glory was revealed in this miracle (vs 11)?
  - What refreshment and hope does Jesus bring to mankind’s desperate and hopeless situations?
- **Application Questions** *(select a few depending on your time. One has to be the I WILL STATEMENT)*
  - What recent miracle has Jesus done in your life?
  - Mary submitted to let Jesus resolve the problem in whatever way He might choose. Are there areas in your life that need to be submitted to His will and control?
  - Do you feel that you are generally living on purpose? *(Jesus knew His time had not yet come)*
  - I WILL STATEMENT: Formulate an I will statement in response to what you have discovered in the Word. Let the group’s secretary also record these in an A4 notebook. Ensure that everyone gets a chance to give their I WILL STATEMENT. You have to be specific. E.g. “I will try this week to live more purposefully. I will plan my week on Sunday, and ensure that I include at least 2 missionary projects.”

## 6. Share *(Purpose: To be witnesses of our faith)*

- Do you have anyone you could share today’s lesson with this week? *Be specific.*

## 7. Closing prayer