

## Discussion Questions: John's Gospel (2:1-11)

These questions are to use (or not) as your group may see fit.

### Overview Question:

1. What are your questions, wonderings, disagreements, reflections, AND/OR connections, from the teaching this past Sunday on John 2:1-11, where Jesus turns water into wine at the wedding in Cana?

### Literary/textual Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus' mother initially tells Jesus, "They have no wine"? (What does she want?) Options:
  - a. She wants Jesus to simply fix the problem.
  - b. She wants Jesus to reveal his true identity as Messiah while fixing the problem.
  - c. She is offended that her son, the Messiah, is a guest at a wedding where the wine ran out, and she wants Jesus to take umbrage.
  - d. Other option(s)?
2. What do you think of Jesus' response to Mary in verse 4? What does he mean to communicate to Mary by saying these things given what you believe to be Mary's motivation from question #2?
3. Do you think Mary is "forcing Jesus' hand" to act in verse 5? Why or why not?
4. In the teaching, it was asserted that the story reads at two levels: (1) the basic story level and (2) the symbolic level. It was asserted that at the symbolic level, the wine represents a sign pointing toward Jesus' Messianic identity (given the OT promises about the abundance of good wine at the time of Israel's redemption). There are other potential symbols/representations in this story in the way John has recorded it. What might those be?

### Connection and Implication Questions:

5. There are very human desires and motivations that move this story/event along. What are they? Is it fair to say that Jesus affirms these desires and motivations or not? Why? Does this story teach us anything about Jesus' concern for our own desires and circumstances? If so, what/how?
6. IF Jesus' "hour" (vs. 4) is the death and resurrection that he must undergo, what does his statement about this "hour" to his mother, in that context, imply to us in our own contexts? (What is he really saying to her/us?)
7. John concludes the narrative by telling his readers that Jesus' disciples "believed in Him" (vs. 11). John tells us in his prologue that it is those who "believe in his name" that will be given the right to become children of God (1:12). What exactly are we supposed to believe about Jesus anyway? How important is the content of our belief or not?