

The First-century Jewish Wedding:

- There are two stages: the betrothal (at which point there is a legally binding trust agreement, called a *ketubah*), and the marriage ceremony.
- Typically, the groom “disappeared” and returned unannounced to gather his bride for the ceremony (see Matthew 25:1-13)
- Originally, the rabbi wasn’t necessarily there to officiate, but to tell stories and entertain.
- The ceremony is performed under a *chuppah*, a canopy held up by four poles. The *chuppah* reminds us of the giving of Torah at mount Sinai (which was enveloped by clouds). The Torah is God’s covenant of trust with His people just as the man and wife are covenanted with and for each other.
- The couple drinks from a cup of wine (a *kiddush*), exchanges rings, and the *ketubah* is read aloud. At this point the marriage is official.
- A second cup of wine is poured, and seven *brachot* (blessings) are pronounced over the bride and groom by the master of the feast.
- In the first century, the feast would last for seven days, with food, wine, and blessings recited each night.
- Running out of food or especially, wine would subject the host to severe ridicule.

Setting:



Bethsaida | Cana

*Walking in His Dust: **Disciples demonstrate humility...** Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from - _____ but in _____ count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.*

*Memory Verse #8: **The reason for the miracle...** John 2:11 – This, the _____ of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his _____ in him.*

Lesson notes & questions:

The First Sign

Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):

(You may wish to spend time in prayer before answering.)

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or loving my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification on?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

APPLY!

- Share your “Lesson Reflections” responses with the group. Jot down others’ observations.
- Discipleship models:
 - Read **John 1:35-39**. What do you seek? Is there evidence for your answer?
 - Read **John 1:40-42**. What did Andrew do after spending a day with Jesus? Have you ever told anyone about Jesus?
 - Read **John 1:44-48**. What did Philip do when he encountered resistance? What has Jesus shown you to confirm who He is? Have you shared this?
- The disciples use six different titles of Jesus (besides His name) in 1:36-49. What are they and what do they tell us about Him? (vs. 36, 38, 41, 45 (description), and two in v. 49).
- Read **John 2:1-3**. What do you think Mary wanted Jesus to do with the information, “they have no wine”? If you have seen “The Chosen,” what was your reaction to how they portrayed the “no wine” scene?
- Read **John 2:9-10**, then **Revelation 19:6-9**. What are some ways in which the “best wine” is yet to come in our walk with Jesus?

GO!

What is God saying to you, and how are you responding?

Matthew 9:37-38 – the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest.

What is something you are excited about right now?

Psalms 37:4 Delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

What is a big challenge you are facing right now?

Gal 6:2 Bear one another’s burdens and fulfill the Law of Christ.

Who is on your heart right now and why?

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Review the last lesson’s GO section. What prayers has God answered?

Philippians 4:8 Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Pray for one another!