



Small Group Discussion Questions
“The Wine and The Whip”
Pastor Scott Farmer
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Opening Thoughts:

We are getting to know Jesus. God wants you to trust in Jesus and have life in His name. Two stories call us to believe and obey Jesus as the giver of joy, cleansing, human community and intimacy with His Father. In these stories about Wine and the Whip, the inspired gospel writer is wooing particularly those with Bad Religion experiences, for whom “religion” has proved empty or twisted.

Jesus fulfills our longing for relationship with God and one another. Let’s get to know Him better.

Warm It Up

Most embarrassing experience at a wedding [that you feel at least reasonably comfortable sharing with the group!]

Talk it Over

We will do this in two parts: The Wine [1-11] and The Whip [13-22]

The Wine - Read John 2:1-11. Around the circle, one verse each.

- 1] What do you know about the role of wine in Jewish life and celebration?
[The Bible people in the group can work to recall Passover, vineyard imagery for Israel, Promised Land descriptions, Communion, etc.]

- 2] What would running out of wine mean for the wedding, the family, the couple?

- 3] What is the symbolism of using ceremonial jars as the vehicle to hold the water turned to wine? [Vv. 6-10]

- 4] John reports that this “was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory” [v.11]. What is a “sign”? What did this “sign” reveal about Jesus?

The Whip – Read John 2:13-22. Around the circle, one verse each.

- 5] What role did animals and money changers have in Temple life and worship [v. 14-15]?
- 6] Why do you suppose Jesus got so physically forceful on this occasion?
- 7] How does John’s picture of Jesus in verses 15-16 fit with today’s popular concept of him?
- 8] What is the significance of Jesus’ claim that the temple is “my Father’s house” [v. 16]?
- 9] Only the Messiah has authority to cleanse the temple. The people recognized that and asked Jesus for a miraculous sign to confirm his identity [v. 18]. To what sign did Jesus point them [v. 22]? Why do you think that sign was so significant in Jesus’ mind?

Work it Out

- 10] Where do you personally experience or see “no more wine” - joy is gone, celebration has turned empty?
- 11] Like Mary, will you take that need to Jesus [in prayer], and commit to “do whatever he tells you” [3-5]?

12] Can you identify with Jesus' passion for developing true relationship with his Father, not just religious gatherings? In what practical ways will you demonstrate the same concern toward worship and not mere show of religion?

Pray It Through

Jesus is the worker of signs and miracles. We just trust Him, believe in Him and so experience the life He offers. Come together in prayer to express your trust, to offer Him your needs, to worship Him, and to commit to doing whatever He tells you.

In gospel grace, express Love for each other before you leave the room.