

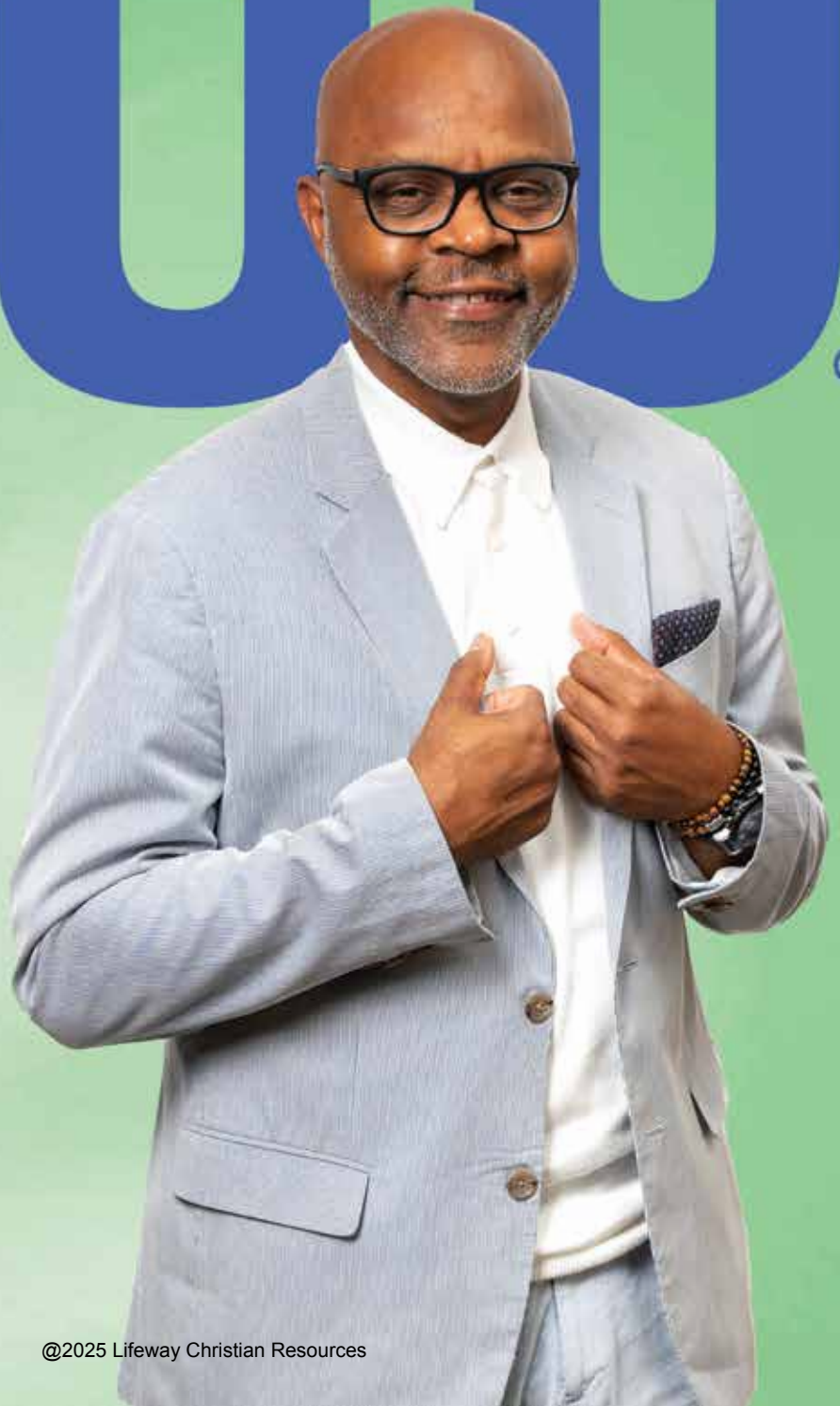
SPRING 2025

YOU[®]

**ALL SIGNS
POINT TO
JESUS**

+ + +

**ELISHA:
SEEING THE HAND
OF GOD AT WORK**



A PROMISE THAT WILL NEVER BE BROKEN

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It hurts when people break a promise. Some people make promises they have no intention of honoring. Others sincerely mean well, but circumstances interfere and they're unable to do what they said they promised they'd do.

God is not like us. When He makes a promise, He keeps it. Period. He is always faithful to His word. For example, He promises an abundant and eternal life to those who trust in His Son, Jesus Christ.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.... For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:9,13).

But we don't automatically enjoy the benefits of this wonderful promise. We must understand and believe Jesus died on the cross, taking our sin upon Himself, and then rose from the dead, making a new, eternal life possible for us. As we believe, we also acknowledge His lordship, turning from sin and surrendering our lives to Him.

God's promise is for you. If you would like a new life in Christ, repent of your sins and put your faith in Him. Admit to God you are a sinner and ask Him to forgive you. Turn from the sin that has kept you from God and accept Jesus's gift of forgiveness. Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Express your repentance and faith by praying something like this:

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive me of my sins. I ask You to forgive me. I now accept Your gift of eternal life. Thank You for Your love, forgiveness, and a new life in Jesus Christ. From this day forward, I choose to follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Share your decision to follow Jesus with a pastor or those in your Bible study group. Get involved in a church that will help you grow in faith. Be baptized as an expression of your faith.

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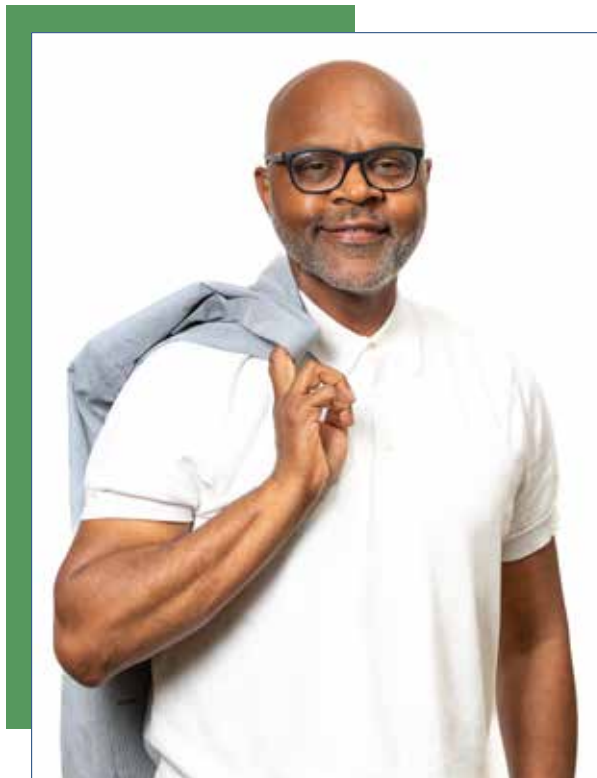
ON THE COVER

Pastor Gregory Perkins gave his life to Christ in 1979 at the Grace Missionary Baptist Church led by Dr. H. L. Ferrell. Pastor announced his call to ministry at the age of 17, delivering his trial sermon and licensed in 1984.

He was ordained in 1989 by the Central District Association of the Western Baptist State Convention. Upon ordination, he was installed as the Assistant Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church of Santa Barbara, CA where he served for over three years. A human resource professional for 20+ years, he has held executive leadership positions in several of the largest nonprofit organizations in the United States.

He is a proud graduate of Gateway Theological Seminary. He currently serves as the President of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Baptist Foundation of California, Executive Board of the Inland Empire Baptist Association and provides leadership to the North American Mission Board, African American church planting initiative. He is currently Lead Pastor of The View Church where he has served since 2011.

The YOU Bible study has been instrumental in helping to develop our ministry leaders and to help our congregation to become fully devoted disciples of Christ.



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EDITORIAL

MARK CROSTON

When I was in my church youth group years, I remember being excited by a placard that said, *"I believe in God even when He is silent."* Excitedly, I went to share this new discovery with my youth group leader. His response surprised me and caused me to think about God a whole new way. He said, *God is always active around us, never silent. Sometimes our eyes are just not open to see Him and our ears to hear Him.* Wow! This put me on a path to think about and see God and His activity in our lives a whole new way.

This quarter of the YOU Bible Study will dig into some helpful issues about seeing God. We will be studying *All Signs Point to Jesus; and Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work*. In addition to these studies, get extra insights and teaching tips from our **YOU Blog** at you.lifeway.com and listen to our Lifeway YOU Podcast on your favorite podcast app.

The **Black Church Leadership and Family Conference** is right around the corner. There is a full program for every member of the family! Join us for this cost efficient, all-in-one, equipping and energizing week, **July 21 through the 25, 2025**. Our focus will be *PURSUE THE PRIZE*. I'm sure this year will be just the time of relaxation, refreshment, and rejuvenation we need.

Learn more at lifeway.com/blackchurchconference.

Thanks for joining me in this season of study. Now grab your Bible because you never know how God will speak through YOU!

Be Blessed!

Dr. Mark A. Croston, Sr.

YOU General Editor

National Director of Black Church Ministries

lifeway.com/BlackChurchLife

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOU

YOU is a three-in-one learner and leader resource with inspirational and educational features to enhance Bible study that leads to spiritual maturity and life change. Here is information to help you get the most out of *YOU*.

LEARNER PAGES

The first half of *YOU* includes pages for personal study. These should be read by the learner and leader prior to group time. Included in each session:

Memory Verses encourage filling the mind with the Word of God to strengthen every aspect of spiritual life.

Keywords identify and define words or phrases to add clarity to the biblical text.

Digging Deeper provides a deeper look at a word, character, or other aspect from the session.

Did You Know? provides an urban or African-American cultural or historical fact or update connected to the session.

Live It sums up the session and offers applications points to challenge daily living.

DAILY READINGS

Included with each session are five devotionals to be read by the learner and leader. The benefits of a daily devotion are innumerable. Their primary purpose in this resource is to focus attention on the biblical content of each session for application of and conformity to the Word of God.

LEADER PAGES

The second half of *YOU* includes pages to guide the teaching of each session. Leaders can use the leader pages to guide learners through the passage and its key emphases as detailed on the learner pages. Here are suggestions on how to teach:

- Prior to the session, read and study the Bible passage, keywords, and learner pages.
- Plan teaching using the leader pages. Keep in mind that because of time, it may not be possible to use every teaching suggestion. Also the teaching suggestions are in sequential order for easy use.
- Features to use when teaching include: The Point, which is readily recognizable on the learner and leader pages; The Question at the top of the first page of each learner session; Keywords on the Scripture pages; "Digging Deeper"; "Did You Know?"; Pack Items* (see next page); "Object Lessons"; and Commentary at the end of each session on leader pages.
- Refine your teaching plans when necessary.

Get more teaching help at you.lifeway.com.

PRAY

Because the Holy Spirit is the guide for your study, invite Him to show you how to "rightly divide the word of truth" as you teach your group. Read the Bible passage several times, asking the Holy Spirit to show you its meaning and application.



FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO GO DEEPER



The **Advanced Bible Study** is written for group members who desire more extensive commentary. It includes exposition of each session's Scripture passage, an examination of keywords, an introduction to the setting of the passage and biblical life and times, questions to guide the study, and interactive responses to help readers apply God's truths to their lives today.



The **YOU Leader Pack** is a collection of teaching aids designed to help leaders provide a visual and interactive experience for learners. Each pack contains posters, charts, maps, and handouts that can add another layer to teaching and engender needed variety that makes learning more interesting.

The **YOU Leader Pack** is located at lifeway.com/YOU



YOU podcasts provide a candid overview of each YOU Bible Study session. General editor Mark Croston and content editor Natasha Menifee casually discuss each biblical topic from an urban perspective with a strong theological and biblical emphasis. The intent of these podcasts is to provide listeners with a time-efficient overview of each session and creative tips for study group leaders.



Social Media: Connect with a community of **YOU** users.

- Post responses to questions, share teaching ideas at **Facebook.com/YOUBibleStudy**
- Learn more about **YOU** and link to great blog content at **YOU.lifeway.com**
- Shop **YOU** at **www.lifeway.com/YOU**

YOU DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

The Pathway of Discipleship

Growing in Christ is a journey—a lifelong journey—but what does that look like? Lifeway’s research reveals eight markers consistently present in the lives of believers who are growing spiritually. Each year, Bible Studies for Life engages all eight of these areas. Following this intentional plan for discipleship ensures progress on the pathway to becoming more like Christ.

Visit BibleStudiesforLife.com for a fuller picture of this discipleship plan through 2025.

8 SIGNPOSTS	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Winter 24-25
Engage with Scripture	All Signs Point to Jesus			
Serve God and Others	Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work			
Obey God & Deny Self		Character Counts		
Exercise Faith		Risk-Takers: The Adventure of Walking by Faith		
Engage with Scripture			The Greatest Truths of All Time	
Obey God and Deny Self			How to Handle Life's Interruptions	
Exercise Faith				Limited Resources, Limitless God
Share Christ				Sharing Christ in a Post-Christian World

STUDY 1

ALL SIGNS POINT TO JESUS

INTRODUCTION

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Engage with Scripture.

The Gospel of John is not a random collection of events from the life of Jesus. The apostle John purposely chose signs that underscore the person of Christ. As we engage with his Gospel and the words he recorded, we deepen in our understanding of God's Word and the One to whom the Scripture points.

Writer Bio

Joseph Brasher

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Tarra Taylor

wrote the Daily Readings for this study. She is an eighth-grade language arts teacher, pastor's wife, and discipleship group leader. She serves at The Rock Church in Memphis, TN. Tarra enjoys a good mystery novel and outdoor activities, where she can observe the beauty of nature.



A STUDY ON THE SIGNS AND WONDERS POINTING TO JESUS

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In our daily lives, we encounter many signs, each meticulously designed to guide us toward specific destinations or choices. Traffic signs ensure our drives on the road are safe and efficient, while instructional signs in public spaces help us confidently navigate unfamiliar environments. Signs point us to our favorite restaurants and stores. Signs point us to hotels and gas stations.

We also interpret social and emotional signs from the people around us. A warm smile can signify openness and friendliness. Crossed arms and a furrowed brow might indicate discomfort or defensiveness, suggesting we should approach the person with caution or empathy. These tangible or intangible signs serve as indispensable markers along the paths we tread, ensuring we move forward with direction and purpose. Signs give us direction and guidance. Whenever we miss the signs, we lose out.

The Gospel of John uniquely emphasizes the signs of Jesus. He performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name. These signs in the Gospel of John are not just miracles but intentional acts designed to reveal Jesus's divine nature and mission.

In this unit, we will explore how the miracles Jesus performed, the statements Jesus made, and the interactions between Jesus and others can be used to deepen our understanding of God's Word and the One to whom the Scripture points. By studying the amazing acts of compassion and power that Jesus exhibited, we can see the practical application of His teachings and understand His mission to reconcile humanity with God.

THE SIGN OF HIS GLORY

Leader pages on pp. 102-105

THE POINT:
JESUS'S WORK IN OUR LIVES IS FOR HIS GLORY.

JOHN 2:1-11

¹ On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus's mother was there,
² and Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well.
³ When the wine ran out, Jesus's mother told him, "They don't have any wine."
⁴ "What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come."

MEMORY VERSE

.....
⁵ **"Do whatever he tells you," his mother told the servants.**

⁶ Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons.

⁷ "Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." And they did.

.....
⁹ When the headwaiter tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom

¹⁰ and told him, "Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people are drunk, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now."

¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

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KEYWORDS

A wedding (v. 1)—Jewish weddings in the first century were a week-long celebration or could last even longer.

Woman (v. 4)—Mary appears in only two scenes in John, here and at the cross. Jesus used the same term to address her as He used when entrusting her to John's care.

Headwaiter (v. 9)—In the New Testament, this word appears only in this verse and the next. The Greek translates literally as "ruler of the table."

First of his signs . . . in Cana (v. 11)—This is was not the only sign Jesus would perform and more specifically, not the only one in Cana.

HOW CAN WE EXPERIENCE THE GLORY OF GOD IN OUR LIVES?

How many followers do you have? This seems to motivate our social media posts, likes, and shares. According to Brandwatch, Beyonce is ninth with followers on Instagram, with 318 million followers, while only following one.¹ Ariana Grande is seventh with 378 million followers while following only 742. Social media has revolutionized how we connect, with individuals showing off their creativity to gain more likes and followers. The truth is that social media continues to play a significant role in shaping perceptions and influencing decisions. Whether it's staying updated with global trends, reconnecting with old friends, or discovering new interests, the impact of social media is undeniable. Why?

There is an undeniable connection between social media and pursuing pride and personal glory. We often seek validation and admiration as we share clips and pieces of our lives, accomplishments, and unforgettable moments. But the joy of accumulating likes, comments, and followers can become a measure of our worth, pushing us to present only the most polished and impressive versions of ourselves. How often do you pick up your phone to see how many likes you have received from your last post?

The self-centered side of our human nature continually seeks to enhance our image and garner personal glory. However, as flawed and sinful beings, any glory we achieve is inherently imperfect and transient. There is, nevertheless, One whose glory is incomparable and eternal. Jesus embodies true glory, and the actions He undertakes on our behalf illuminate this. Instead of seeking our own fame, we should be pursuing His glory.

This week, we're diving into a moment that went down at a wedding—a powerful miracle that most folks didn't even realize at the time. Jesus wasn't trying to grab the spotlight or show off with what happened. He wasn't seeking likes. Instead, it was all about revealing His true power and glory. This miracle kicked off Jesus's public ministry, setting

the stage for everything that followed. Get ready to uncover how this miracle played a huge role in showing the world who Jesus really is.

Trust His Plan // John 2:1-4

Have you ever been to a wedding where something went wrong publicly? A person shared her disappointment while attending the wedding of a friend. They ran out of food for the last two tables, who just happened to be the coworkers of the bride. Those attendants had to order pizza delivery



THE POINT: JESUS'S WORK IN OUR LIVES IS FOR HIS GLORY.

and pay for it because the bride's family refused to pay for it. You never remember the good weddings, but you never forget the bad ones. What we see in the text today is certainly an example of that.

The first miracle in the Gospel of John does not occur in the grand imperial palace of Rome, neither within the majestic confines of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem nor amid the impressive architecture of Athens' Acropolis. Instead, the first miracle unfolds in a humble, impoverished, and barely known village hidden in a remote corner of Galilee called Cana. There, Jesus, his mother, and disciples are attending a wedding.

During Jesus' day, weddings were a week-long tradition, not just a one day thing. Family and friends would come and stay for days, and the hosts made sure there was plenty of food and drinks to go around. Wine particularly, presence of wine was not for intoxication but was part of Jewish culture. In fact, almost every tradition, holiday, and celebration included wine.

The problem is obvious in this passage, Jesus and His disciples attend a wedding where the host runs out of wine (v. 3). With the situation becoming increasingly dire, Jesus, prompted by His mother, performs His first miracle. Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine." This issue was a big deal socially because if you ran out of wine or food at a wedding, the family could face serious public shame or at the very least, embarrassment. People might think the family was too poor to take care of their guests. And, to make things worse, wine wasn't easy to get back then. You couldn't just go to the corner store really quickly.

When we hear Jesus call His mother "woman" (v. 4), we might automatically judge Him and think, "How could He talk to His mother like that?" But it's important to understand the context of that time. Back then, Jesus referring to His mother as "woman" was actually a term of endearment, not meant to be harsh. It was His way of emphasizing the importance of the moment. It's like Jesus was asking Mary, "Is this really what you want me to do?" He was trying to show both her and His disciples that miracles aren't just tricks to be performed on demand. They have a higher purpose – to reveal a deeper truth about God and bring Him glory. So, when Jesus said, "My hour has not yet come" (v. 4), He was making an important point filled with purpose.

We need to see Jesus for who He truly is—the One who came to earth with a much greater purpose that shows His ultimate authority. Even if we don't understand what God is doing in a situation, we must learn to trust in His plans and His timing.

HOW CAN WE TRUST GOD'S TIMING INSTEAD OF STRESSING OVER OUR OWN RUSH?



DIGGING DEEPER WORKING TOGETHER

In the miracle of the turning of water to wine, we often overlook the teamwork required among the servants. There was a cartoon called "The Wonder Twins." Zan can transform into water at any state (solid, liquid, gas). Jayna is a shape-shifter; she could transform into any animal, whether real, mythological, and indigenous to Earth or to some other planet. But there was only one way for The Wonder Twins to activate their power. The Wonder Twins powers are activated when they touch each other and speak the phrase, "Wonder Twin powers, activate!" Physical contact is required. If the two are out of reach of each other, they are unable to activate their powers. As they were about to transform, they would each announce their intended form. "Shape of . . ." or "Form of . . ." What I am trying to suggest is what Jesus said: "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:19-20 KJV)

How can working together increase our faith?

Obey His Commands // John 2:5-8

Notice Mary didn't push back or argue about Jesus's response; she realized that once Jesus was involved, it wasn't up to her anymore. She trusted that whether He chose to do a miracle or not at that moment, His actions would still honor God. She had faith in Jesus!

So Mary turns to the servants, in faith, and says, "Do whatever he tells you" (v. 5). The "servants" refer to the household staff or attendants who were assisting at the wedding in Cana. In today's time, these would have been the hotel waiters during a wedding reception. Isn't it incredible that for Jesus' first miracle, ordinary servants were asked to follow His commands? They got a front-row seat to witness His incredible power, something that must have left a lasting impact on them.

Jesus called the servants to fill the six stone jars to the brim (v. 6). The jars were massive, holding like 20-30 gallons each. The water in them wasn't for drinking; it was for rituals, like washing hands and stuff. When Jesus told the servants to fill those jars to the top with water, it made sure everyone knew there wasn't any trickery involved. The scripture straight-up says it was water, no doubt about it.

Again, we see the obedience of the servants on display. When Jesus ordered them to draw liquid from the stone jars, the servants immediately responded and took some to the headwaiter. In this culture, the headwaiter served as an overseer of the meals, as well as a master of ceremonies to ensure that all the wedding celebrations went as planned.

So many times, we waver in obedience when Jesus calls us to trust in Him. Then we'll question the way in which Jesus calls us to do something when we don't see a logical solution. Or rather than obey, we'll just complain about what we are being asked to do. Finally, we may waver when we consider the possible outcomes of our obedience. The more we see ourselves as servants, however, the more we'll lean upon our faith and respond in obedience (Gal. 2:20).

WHY IS IT HARD SOMETIMES TO DO WHAT JESUS TELLS US TO DO?



See His Works // John 2:9-11

At a concert, they don't start with the main performer. They have other acts and artists on first. The biggest star always performs last. Why? Because they save the best for last. We have become accustomed to the expression – they saved the best for last. However, in our passage, when it came to serving wine at the wedding feast, the host served the best wine first. Then as the feast continued and the wine seemed to run lower, it became diluted with water so that it would last longer.

However, when the head waiter got the new round of wine, he was straight up confused. All of a sudden, there was a load of top-quality wine that nobody had tasted yet. The confusion brought about questions for the headwaiter:

- **He questioned the source (v. 9).** He was perplexed as to where the wine came from.
- **He questioned the wrong people (v. 9).** Rather than asking the servants about their experience, the headwaiter went to the bridegroom to gain information (who would have had no idea how it happened).
- **He questioned the purpose (v. 10).** He saw that this wine was counter to the traditional practice of diluting wine and questioned why it was just now being offered.

We see in the headwaiter's questions a picture of what happens when we go searching for answers without seeing things from a kingdom

THE POINT: JESUS'S WORK IN OUR LIVES IS FOR HIS GLORY.

perspective—whether it's a positive occurrence, as in this case, or a challenge we face. Many times, we can struggle to see answers to the questions we face in our lives.

An important purpose of the sign of the wedding was to inaugurate Jesus's earthly ministry and point to the truth that Jesus has compassion for people. It would have been easy for Jesus to have walked away and let the wedding host and family figure it out on their own. But He knew as well that this was ultimately an opportunity to put compassion on display for those who really needed to see it. It's also important to see how John didn't refer to the water changing to wine as only a miracle, rather he called it a sign (v. 11). It's a sign that points to the glory of God and Jesus being the promised Messiah. Furthermore, Jesus isn't holding anything back from us, turning us away, or trying to ration His grace in fear that it might run out. Of course, the ultimate display of Jesus's compassion—and His grace—can be seen in His life, death, burial, and resurrection.

WHAT ARE SOME LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS FIRST SIGN FROM JESUS?

DID YOU KNOW?

According to Fidelity.com, the average American wedding costs approximately \$29,000. The two largest expenses in this scenario are the reception venue and catering, which together comprise more than 40% of the total wedding budget.² Reception venues can range from lavish hotels and rustic barns to elegant country clubs, each adding its unique ambiance and amenities to the ceremony. Catering is another cost, along with the wedding attire, photography, music, and floral arrangements, all of which enhance the overall event. Despite the substantial investment, the goal for many couples is to create an unforgettable celebration of their union, filled with meaningful moments shared with family and friends.

Biblical Truth: "Unless the LORD builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain" (Ps. 127:1a).

What happens when we place more focus on the wedding ceremony and reception than the marriage itself?

LIVE IT

How can you live your life for Jesus' glory?

It's easy to become consumed by personal accomplishments and achievements. In a world driven by social media, the number of likes and followers often seems to establish our credibility. However, as Christians, our focus is to seek Christ's glory rather than our own. We should strive to reflect His love and grace in all we do. Choose one of the following applications:

+ + +

- **Worship.** Write down recent decisions, motivations, and actions taken in your life. Evaluate how you are using these things to glorify the Lord and point people to Jesus.
- **Obey.** Write down two or three things that God may be calling you to obey Him in doing and pray about how you can begin to act upon those things. Draw up an action plan.
- **Share.** Take some time to meet with another group member and ask questions about how they are handling struggles in their lives. What are some needs they have that only Jesus can supply?

DAILY READINGS

1. TRUST HIM COMPLETELY // JOHN 2:5

"Simply crisscross your arms over your chest and just fall back into my arms; I will catch you," my baby brother said. I was the lucky chosen one to demonstrate this team building activity he was sharing with the team he leads. I remember thinking to myself, "I either trust him, or I don't." In this verse, Jesus's mother puts her complete trust in Jesus. While attending a wedding in Cana of Galilee, the wine runs out, and she informs Him. She then tells the servants to do whatever He tells them. Just like that. Without hesitation. Devoid of questions. She trusted that she could count on Him to take care of their problem.

Like Mary, we should learn to put our complete trust in Jesus, leaving the results up to Him.

2. KEEPING HIS COMMANDS HAS BENEFITS // PSALM 25:10

A common misconception many people have is that the Lord's statutes restrain us or keep us from something, but that could not be further from the truth. In fact, His decrees are designed to help us and forge us forward. In this chapter of Psalm, David continues to put his trust in the Lord concerning his enemies. He commands the Lord to show him His ways, guiding and teaching him His truth. This verse highlights a condition to be met and a promise to be kept. Lord, show me your ways; teach me your paths; lead me in your truth. Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

If we keep the Lord's commands, His ways will be loving and faithful towards us.

3. FOR HIS GLORY // 1 KINGS 18:37

Take a moment and ponder why you do what you do. Is it for your glory or His glory? At some point in our lives, we can probably all recall a time of desiring the credit or wanting to be acknowledged for the work that we do for the Lord. However, Elijah provides us an example of how to pray. He prays

to the Lord after he tells the people to decide who they will follow: the Lord or Baal. They decided that the god who answers by fire will be God. As shown in this verse, he commands the Lord to answer him so the people will know that He is Lord and is turning their hearts back.

Let us follow the example of Elijah and seek to glorify God and not ourselves.

4. POSSESS THE RIGHT ATTRIBUTES // PSALM 103:8

How would your coworkers describe you? Would they know you are a Christian? Do you express the traits that would categorize you as a son or daughter of the King? Psalm 103 provides some great descriptions of our Lord. What better person is there than the Lord to offer the perfect example of how we should live daily? David opens the chapter by charging the reader to bless the Lord, forgetting not all His benefits. Then, he goes on to inform us why. Verse 8 highlights a few reasons we are to bless the Lord. The Lord is merciful, gracious, and slow to anger. As a child of God, we, too, are to possess these same traits.

Today, be slow to anger. Choose to extend mercy and grace towards others.

5. SAVED THROUGH GRACE ALONE // GALATIANS 2:21

If I have heard it once, I have heard it a million times: "My good outweighs my bad." I immediately want to respond but resist the urge, "What exactly does this mean." The good news is that we are not saved by our good works. Paul speaks to the Galatians who are being swayed by others against the gospel they have been preached. This verse sums up the chapter. He says that he does not put aside or does not exclude God's grace. For righteousness does not come by the law but His grace. If righteousness came through the law, then His death was for nought.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, that I am saved by grace alone and not by the works that I do or laws that I keep.