



WAYPOINTS, PART 1: A NEW UNION

February 23, 2020

Pastor Brad Williams

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

MAIN TEXT(S):

John 20:31; John 2:1-11

SUMMARY

The book of John has one stated purpose: to demonstrate through the life of Jesus that he is the Messiah and the readers can have faith in him. John does this by describing seven miracles or signs (8 including his resurrection). Each of these 7 miracles has a deeper meaning than first meets the eye.

The first miracle that the book of John describes is Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding. He saves a couple from potential embarrassment, but more than that, he sends a message about who he is and what he's come to do. He desecrates ceremonial washing basins by filling them with wine. He demonstrates through this that he has come to do something new. No longer will people be trapped in a religious system. He has come to make a new covenant, one that is not based on our behavior, but a revelation of God's glory and love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word "sign"?
2. Have you ever witnessed a miracle? What happened?
3. What is the most fun wedding you've ever been to? What made it so great?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since the group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Pastor Brad said that John 20:10 is the thesis for the book of John.
How would you phrase this thesis in your own words?
2. What was Jesus' first reaction to his mother's request at the wedding?
Why do you think he answered in this way?
3. How does Jesus' mother respond to him in John 2:5?
What does this tell you about how Mary viewed her son?
4. What does Jesus tell the servants to fill with water?
What else might they have used? What do you think the significance of this choice is?
5. What do you learn about this miracle from John 2:11?
What do you learn about why Jesus performed miracles?

cont.

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do people think the purpose of miracles is?
How does this compare to what we learn about miracles from this week's reading?
2. What is the function of a sign? How did miracles function as a sign in Jesus' day?
Do you think miracles function the same or different in our own day? Why?
3. How have you seen people turn Christianity into a religion?
4. What kinds of things might Jesus do today (or might he call his followers to do) that might offend people's religious sensibilities?
5. What are the differences between the ways the Jews operated and related to God and the ways Jesus establishes for us to relate to God?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Do you think God still does miracles today? If so, what do you think the purpose of these miracles is? If not, why do you think that way?
2. What kinds of signs has God used in your life to point you to him?
3. In what ways have you tried to "earn" God's presence through your behavior, either in your past or your present?
4. Has God ever called you to do something that might offend people's religious sensibilities or have you ever been challenged by someone else's behavior in the name of Jesus? What happened?
5. Do you find the message of this passage/sermon more encouraging or challenging? Why?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What could you do this week to move towards a life driven not by religiosity but by the love of God?
2. How could you be a sign for others pointing them towards God?
How can your group pray for you this week as you seek to do this?
3. What might God be calling you to do or support that might naturally go against your sensibilities? How can your group pray for or encourage you in this?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes on the following page.

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2-23-2020

John 20:31 "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the MESSIAH, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John goes through 7 carefully selected miracles & an 8th being the resurrection of Christ.



John saved his objective until the end

Miracles are signs - SIGNS: authenticate the messenger and point to who GOD is or where he wants us to go.

THESE SIGNS ARE waypoints!

#1

JOHN 2:1-11

WATER TO WINE

The first miracle in John... a wedding in Cana.

The BIG ISSUE... They ran out of wine!

- Jesus' mom goes to him & informs him of this issue.
- Jesus objects & his mom tells the servants to do whatever Jesus says.
- Jesus tells the servants to fill ceremonial washing jars with water then draw some out & take it to the master.
- It was the best wine (usually served first not at the end).

"My hour has not come."

Weddings in this time

- go on for days
- everyone would be invited.
- financial & relational implications
- social standing is at stake

Wine & with Noah. Elements become symbols of God's blessing & presence
 - Olive oil
 - Grain
 - WINE
 & These all take time & land & a time of peace.

The fact that he did not use empty wine casks or skins, but used CEREMONIAL WASHING JARS was very significant!

• Joshua brings grapes back from the promised land. Wine is a symbol of God's blessing & presence. Then the nation crumbles & Prophets start speaking of the day WINE WILL RETURN - this wedding!

This is a symbol that a freedom, a savior, a NEW WAY, a NEW LIFE is coming!

* First this a confrontation of our religious tendencies. We can have a habit of turning the way of Jesus into empty, abusive religion.

* Second this is an INVITATION! The cross of Christ marks the END of religion.

Will you drink the water of self-righteousness, or will you enjoy the wine of God's love & glory?