

Jesus' first miraculous sign – how can we put ourselves in the story?
Reflection questions for John 2:1-11

John 2:1,2

1-Do you ever think of Jesus and His disciples hanging out and doing normal things like going to an hours-long wedding like you've done in the past? Can you imagine Jesus laughing, having intriguing side conversations, or chatting with someone who was kind of a pain at a wedding reception? Eating wedding food, following social protocols...have you given much thought to how many hours Jesus spent doing these life tasks, like you do?

2-Maybe it was different in Biblical times, but how many men actually enjoy going to a wedding? How often do you think about Jesus being *human*, with opinions and preferences and foods he liked/didn't like, having a pet? Jesus lived a life similar to your life. He socialized, maybe got a an injury at work as a carpenter, or occasionally had to look for the nearest bathroom. What does it mean for you to understand that Jesus has a life in common with you?

John 2: 3-5

1-Jesus' dad is not mentioned as attending the wedding. Historians have noticed Joseph's lack of presence in the historical record of Jesus' adult life. Have you ever thought that Jesus had family of origin issues, like his dad perhaps dying before his mom? No family is perfect, and Jesus' family wasn't, we can be assured of that (don't forget the family dynamic of Mark 3:21!). Can you imagine how Jesus might identify with your family of origin issues?

2-Does it sound like Mary wanted to get the ball rolling on her son's public ministry debut? Perhaps she was just trying to be helpful to the hosts? Notice her confidence in her son. "Do whatever he tells you to do." Mary might have been remembering, yet again, the promises from an angel about her boy. Pause, and imagine her voice nudging and nudging the servants to listen to Jesus. What might she be saying to them?

3-This mom didn't know both the rewarding and harsh specific details of her son's future life. Do you relate to a mom who is full of hope for her adult kids' lives? It's an act of faith, isn't it?

4-Can you relate to Mary in any way?

John 2: 6-11

1-What do you think the servants' chatter was like in the back room when Jesus told them to fill the ceremonial washing jars with water (20-30 gallons each!)? Can you hear their confused whispers, see their eyes maybe roll in sarcasm? Finally, out of desperation someone said, "Ok let's just humor this guy." What would it be like for you in your present circumstances, to move forward on a nudge from the Spirit that you've heard deep inside - maybe something painful

(addressing childhood developmental trauma), maybe a call to patience (while discernment comes to you about a next decision), maybe scaling back your intense busyness (that gives you strokes but isn't the stillness your heart is asking for)?

2-Perhaps Jesus inwardly sighed as the miracles phase of his rabbi ministry was now going to begin. The world was about to see God at work in stunning ways – up close. He would have to be vulnerable about his true self. How does it feel to be vulnerable and let others know about how God is transforming you these days? Perhaps some friends have not tracked, while maybe another one or two have. Think about finding a person or community that can encourage your life transformation journey (Spiritual Director, support group, online thread of spiritually like-minded).