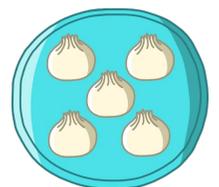




HAVE YOU *Eaten Yet?*

SMALL GROUP SERIES | JOHN 2

FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS



Written by Ashley Bauer-Yuen

HAVE YOU EATEN YET? | JOHN 2

Read the story individually or aloud. Then discuss the warm-up question.

LeLe Hsu reflects on the value of hospitality, family, and ethnic identity. LeLe is biracial, Black American and second-generation Filipina and her husband Greg is second-generation Chinese American (Cantonese).

"I began to recognize both similarities and differences of our contexts and ethnic identities. I noticed that my family was informal and relaxed, while Greg's family was formal and specific. While both of our Asian cultures have a love for hospitality, they are enacted differently.

Whereas Greg's parents have high expectations of their roles as hosts — as demonstrated by how they arranged a schedule for my first visit with them — my parents are more casual — they like to have people over to care for and host with lots of food and less of a schedule. My mother is this way because though she grew up poor, her father told her, "We may not have money, but at least we can give a good meal." To this day, when anyone comes over, she will ask if they are hungry or want something to eat. Greg's family showed me a different value in hospitality. As Greg and I moved into marriage, we noticed our own preferred method of hospitality. I consider hospitality to be a clean, welcoming, and fun space to invite others into. Greg considers hospitality to be superb food and drinks provided. Together, we desire to integrate both of our Asian cultures' hospitality into our new family."

Read LeLe's full article, "I Am Seen" originally published in *Inheritance Magazine*.

<https://www.inheritancemag.com/stories/i-am-seen>

Warm-up Question

What does hospitality look like in your family? How do you like to host others, whether that resembles or differs from your family's hospitality? Describe a memorable family feast. What foods were there?

Context: Grasping the Gospel of John

Weddings

Wedding festivities lasted a whole week. The bride and groom were treated as king and queen for the entire time. Weddings consisted of a wedding procession and wedding feast. The wedding procession consisted of the groom going to the bride's home and bringing her back to his home (which he has been preparing). Invited guests joined this joyous parade and attended the wedding feast that followed at the groom's home. The drinking of wine was an important feature of the feast.

Headwaiter

The wedding feast had a person known as the headwaiter, who made preparations, greeted the guests, and made sure there was enough food and drink. This role would be equivalent to an event coordinator. The headwaiter also instructed servers, blessed the wine, and facilitated benedictions from relatives and friends.

Jesus' mother

Jesus' mother is often reduced to a young virgin mother. However, in this passage her character, awareness, and empathy shine through. She knew the Hebrew Scriptures and that her son Jesus embodied the Messianic hope for Israel. With Jesus recruiting followers, she probably knew Jesus' ministry was about to begin.

Miracles

Miracles were seen as events that override natural order and inspire wonder. They show power that can only be from God. Miracles did not create belief but created a moment for people to choose faith. Miracles in the New Testament were often centered on compassion.

John 2:1-12 (CEB)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and ²Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. ³When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any wine."

⁴Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't come yet."

⁵His mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter," and they did. ⁹The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn't know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

The headwaiter called the groom ¹⁰and said, "Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now." ¹¹This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this, Jesus and his mother, his brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there for a few days.

Discussing the Story in John:

1. What do you notice about the conversation between Jesus and his mother?
 - a. What do you think she is feeling about the situation?
 - b. Why does Jesus choose to honor his mother's request after saying, "My time hasn't come yet?"
2. Make of list of all the expectations you see in the passage relationally, culturally, or logistically. Make another list of unexpected or surprising things that come up in the passage.
 - a. What do you notice about the list of expectations and the list of unexpected things?
3. What happens during the feast both publicly and secretly?
 - a. How was each person part of the miracle? How can they easily go unnoticed?
 - b. Why does Jesus allow his miracle to go unnoticed to the guests, the headwaiter, and the wedding couple?
4. What would have happened if no one responded to the running out of wine? What would have been the missed opportunities?
5. How were the disciples impacted? Why was this significant?
6. How does everything come together? How does this small community come together to extend hospitality to the wedding couple and their guests?
 - a. How have you seen people come together like this in your Asian American community or context? What specific roles or people were involved?

Experiencing God's Hospitality

The unexpected low inventory of wine would have jeopardized the wedding couple of their celebration and honor. However, prompted by the awareness of his mother and with the help of the servants, Jesus secretly provides more wine for the wedding feast, so that the couple can be honored well. This communal hospitality comes together to care in the normal and unexpected of this situation and invites opportunities to grow in faith and as a community.

Gleaning and Growing from Stories

1. With which person/group do you resonate most in this passage? Why?
2. How do you respond to expectations from others? Or how do you respond to unexpected situations? Share a story that comes to mind.
3. How does having more than enough communicate hospitality to you or your context? Have you ever experienced a situation where there wasn't enough and what did that communicate to you?
4. How can someone's hospitality go unnoticed in your community? What would it look like to grow in noticing and honoring them?
5. Was there a time where extending hospitality led you or your community to grow in faith? Describe how it grew your faith.

Check out questions:

What is something you are taking from today? Or what is something you want to keep digesting or chewing on this week?