

John 2:1–11 • Shocking!



Discuss

In this culture, hospitality was a top value. It would be a great dishonor to run out of food or wine.

1. Turning water into wine is probably the last thing you would expect from someone like Jesus. Interestingly, it caused the disciples to put their trust in him. Why? They likely had new questions about Jesus as a result. What new questions do you have about faith or Jesus?
2. A pool of top-notch wine is more than enough for this wedding. Why do you think Jesus makes so much? And why such excellent wine? What does this reveal about Jesus and his generosity?

Apply

1. Jesus responds to scarcity. Where in your life are you “running out of wine” or feeling empty?
2. Jesus wants to show us how good he is by pouring his Spirit into the places of weakness in our lives. Would you like to ask Jesus to meet a need in your life?

3. As followers of Jesus, we emulate his actions. This week, do one of these 3 acts of generosity (or come up with your own). Invite the people you meet to join you next week.

1. Give out candy and chips.
2. Buy a bunch of blue books or scantrons to give out during midterms.
3. Give out cans of soda and bottles of gatorade on a hot day.

Steps for Leading this Encounter with Jesus

1. Start with a game or activity to get to know each other (15 minutes)

Here are ideas for great bonding activities:

- Food - Bring some great food to share
- Game - Play something quick and fun to draw people in → Apples to Apples, HedBanz, UNO, etc.
- Icebreaker - Ask an engaging question to get people talking → “How does your family celebrate? Share about the best party you’ve been to!”

2. Debrief last week’s discussion (5 minutes)

Let’s take a minute to hear from anyone that came last week:

- What did you like about our discussion?
- How did you respond to the story?— What did you do? How did it go?
- What are we learning about becoming a community that follows Jesus on this campus?

3. Facilitate a discussion about the story (25 min)

- Invite someone in the group to read the story aloud.
- Ask them what they have questions about (write these down and ask them to the group along the way)
- Ask the “Discuss” questions.

A few extra questions for going deeper:

- The jars that Jesus filled with wine were meant for ceremonial washing—they symbolized washing the moral dirt off, and becoming clean in God’s eyes. How is Jesus adding new symbolism to this ceremony?
- How did this wedding scene “reveal Jesus’ glory”? What do you like about him?

4. Tell a personal story from your life (5 minutes)

- Tell a story of a time you were “running out of wine” or feeling empty. How did Jesus meet a need for you? -or-
- Tell a story of a time you took a risk to obey Jesus like these servants. How did you end up seeing more of his glory? How did you grow?

5. Ask both “Apply” questions and invite everyone to respond (10 minutes)

- Missional Challenge: Question 3 challenges everyone to take a risk to reveals Jesus’ generosity. Pick an activity from the 3 listed and go try it out as a group right then and there. If people you meet are surprised or ask why you’re doing this then show them this story and invite them to the next Encounter Group!