

STEP BY STEP THROUGH YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

# Week One: Miracles Around Us

## The Wedding at Cana in Galilee (John 2:1-11)

The wedding at Cana was the beginning of Christ's public ministry. This event is significant in symbolizing the union between God and His people: holy matrimony; between the divine and the church. Taking place on the third day of the wedding, this sign foreshadows the resurrection of Christ and the spread of the word of our Lord and Savior.

### Read John 2:1-11

#### What do you think?

1. Why do you think the first sign of Christ's ministry took place at a wedding feast?
2. Why did Mary ask Jesus for help? When you feel spiritually drained, losing strength and hope, how often do you go to God for support?
3. Mary tells the servants, "Whatever He tell you to do, do it." This required the servants to fully obey His commands, no matter how strange the commands might seem at the time. When you pray for help, do you fully submit to God's commands or do you protest, thinking you know better? Why?
4. The master of the feast did not know or realize that the delicious wine he tasted came from water. He wasn't there to witness that a miracle had taken place, though his servants did. What miracles happen around you that you do not notice?

Anticipating, hoping, requesting...

Sometimes there are situations in our lives where we pray for miracles. We ask God for signs of hope, yet we either do not see them or we ascribe them to coincidence, happenstance, and luck. We think miracles can vouch that God has listened to our prayers and it will strengthen our faith in Him. However, in the busy and noisy turmoil of our lives, miracles happen every day, and we are given signs from God, but our minds and thoughts are occupied and distracted with other things.

In this story, there are three main characters: **Mary**, who made the request, undoubtedly believing in Christ and His ability to fix the problem; **the servants**, who probably doubted and didn't understand what will become of this, yet curiously followed His commands, witnessed and were greatly impacted by this miracle; and **the master of the feast**, who did not notice that a miracle had taken place, but received and enjoyed the results of it.

During the span of our lives, we can be any of these characters, more often one than another. This might be based on the situation of our life, our doubts, and the frustrations we might harbor in our hearts. However, as we enter this Lenten season, let us strive to have the faith of Mary, the obedience of the servants, and the gratitude of the master of the feast, so that we may manifest that miracle in our lives: the knowledge of Christ's Godliness.

St. Gregory of Narek prays it best in his Book of Lamentations:

*"May the dawn of that unobscured miracle, the knowledge of your Godliness, shine within me again, Almighty, to be worthy to do and teach and be an example of goodness for god-loving listeners. To you all glory in all things, with your Father almighty and your only begotten and benevolent Son, now and forever, without end."(Prayer 34B)*

