

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of July 5, 2015

John 2:1-11

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Common English Bible (CEB)

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

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

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

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter," and they did. ⁹ The 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 ¹⁰ and 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." ¹¹ This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Connection Questions:

1. What comes to mind when you hear about the idea of a good party?
2. In the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church consumption of alcohol is discouraged. Discuss why you think the church takes this stance on this issue.
3. Wine in Jesus' day was a symbol of joy. Jesus says in our text that his purpose is so that his joy can be in us and that our joy can be complete. What do you think Jesus means as he refers to joy?
4. How is the emotion of happiness different from experiencing joy?
5. Respond to the statement that joy is a state of being.

6. Can we experience joy while simultaneously experiencing pain or failure in life? Can we experience joy even when our plans fail?

7. Can you find any correlation between joy and your concept of a party?

8. Can you give an example of how your faith possibly assisted you when a vacation plan you had didn't work out?

9. In Jesus' words, how can God's joy be completed in us?

10. In Rev. Adkins' sermon he makes the statement that the opposite of joy is not sadness or sorrow but anxiety. Discuss whether you agree or disagree and why.