



# At This Table



## Week of May 19 At This Table - John 2:1-12<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Have you ever noticed in the gospels how often Jesus is eating a meal with other people? He regularly practiced fellowship, not just with his own followers, but with acquaintances, strangers, and even those cast off by society. He went to weddings and funerals and made time for people, wherever they were, often breaking bread with them in an act of hospitality. Welcoming others to a meal can provide a relaxed, safe environment to share stories, offer friendship, and show God's grace in a tangible form. This series will challenge us to share meals like Jesus did and encourage us to welcome others into our relational space for the purpose of kingdom building.

### Group Objectives

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

### DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We do life together.*** Community is our middle name. Every person of every generation is wanted, needed, and known. And there's always room for one more.

### Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- Share about the best dinner party you ever attended. What made it so memorable?

### Listening to God

- How have you seen God working in your life and the life of others this week?
- Has God been encouraging you to reach out to a neighbor with an offer of a shared meal? What is your next step?

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<sup>1</sup> This discussion guide was written by Dawn Gentry and edited by Rachel Vaughn. To watch the sermon for this week, go to [www.ccomaha.org/messages](http://www.ccomaha.org/messages).

## **Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

In first century Cana, weddings often lasted seven days, making it difficult to estimate how much food and drink would be needed. To run out of wine at a wedding was “a social faux pas that could become the subject of this village’s jests for years.”<sup>2</sup> Jesus “goes where the people are” and joins the wedding celebration along with his disciples. He has a surprising reaction (and interaction) during a wedding feast where they are guests. Perhaps due in part to his mother’s urging, Jesus performs his first public miracle and saves the groom from both embarrassment and dishonor.

### ***Read John 2:1-12:***

- What do you make of the interaction between Jesus and his mother?
  - While she doesn’t make an actual “request” of Jesus, she seems to assume he will act. Why do you think this is so?
- The “master of the banquet” would have been responsible for monitoring the store of wine and (if necessary) diluting it to make it last longer. Why do you think Jesus instructs the servant to take him a glass rather than the groom (or other guests)?
- What does John note about the disciples after this event? (see verse 11)
- The text gives no indication that the groom ever knew what Jesus did to prevent his embarrassment. What might this tell us about our own opportunities to serve and bless without recognition or acknowledgement from others?
- How might celebrating with friends at a wedding lead to opportunities to share the gospel?

### **Reach One More Challenge**

- Are you or your “One More” considering baptism? If so, encourage them to sign up for Baptism on the Green, June 2 at 9 a.m. To learn more, go to <https://www.cccomaha.org/baptism>.

### **Prayer Prompts**

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompt.
  - *Jesus, who are you calling me into relationship with for kingdom purposes?*

### **For further study**

- Watch this clip from *The Chosen* where Jesus turns the water into wine. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imcsknohTjU>. What do you notice (or wonder) about this version of the story compared to what you read and discussed?
- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see [www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org](http://www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org).
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- *Sent: Living a Life that Invites Others to Jesus*, Heather Holleman
- *The Art of Neighboring*, Pathak & Runyon
- *Bread and Wine: A Love Letter to Life Around the Table with Recipes*, Shauna Niequist
- *We Will Feast: Rethinking Dinner, Worship, and the Community of God*, Kendall Vanderslice
- *The Turquoise Table: Finding Community and Connection in Your Own Front Yard*, Kristin Schell

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<sup>2</sup> Craig Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2014), 253.