

Small Group Discussion Guide — August 8, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
 - Sermon: Jesus and the Miraculous
 - Scripture: John 2: 1-11
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

What sparked passion (deep and strong emotion) in you this past week? How does it line up with God's passion for the world?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. If you were good enough to medal in the summer or winter Olympics, in which event would you want to compete?

ENGAGE

Read John 2: 1-11.

1. What is the setting of this account? Does anything stand out to you as significant, given the timing and the particular celebration? Explain.
2. What stands out to you regarding the interaction between Jesus and Mary, His mother? Why do you think Mary involves Jesus in this situation?
3. What does Jesus mean by "my hour has not yet come?" So why do you think He decides to intervene in this situation?
4. What might be the significance of verse 9? Who are the "insiders" with a front row seat to what Jesus has done? Do you think the others knew what had happened?
5. Read verse 11 again. What does it say was the result of this miracle?

APPLY

1. David spent some time on the incomprehensible size and complexity of creation, God's limitless vision and presence, His ultimate and unstoppable power... in short, the incredible immensity of God. Sit with that for a moment. How does this "bigness" of God affect your faith? What comes to your mind about your place in this universe?
2. How have you traditionally regarded the idea of miracles? Sceptically? With awe? As "par for the course" with God? Do you, in your heart of hearts, believe in miracles and God's intervention in human affairs? Why do we sometimes want to "explain away" these interventions? How can we have eyes to see the miracles that God still does in our world?

PRAYER

Father, when we see what you've created and done, and when we think about the love and grace you lavish on us, help us to know, deep in our hearts, that you are who you say you are - the great *I AM*, creator, sustainer, and giver of all life. Teach us to stand in grateful awe of you and to respond to your power and love with an ever-growing desire to serve you and to join you in your mission to bring light to this world. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

David mentioned that a mark of wisdom is to know that you don't know very much. Discuss this thought. How has this idea become real for you in your own experience? In other words, in what areas have you discovered that you don't know as much as you previously thought, and how has this gained wisdom affected your faith?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-3

Job 38:1-7

Acts 2:22

Revelation 19:7-9

QUOTATIONS

"If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning."
C.S. Lewis

"Everyone who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe – a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble. In this way the pursuit of science leads to a religious feeling of a special sort..."
Albert Einstein

"If God creates a miraculous spermatozoon in the body of a virgin, it does not proceed to break any laws. The laws at once take over. Nature is ready. Pregnancy follows, according to all the normal laws, and nine months later a child is born."
C.S. Lewis

"Somehow or other an extraordinary idea has arisen that the disbelievers in miracles consider them coldly and fairly while believers in miracles accept them only in connection with some dogma. The fact is quite the other way. The believers in miracles accept them (rightly or wrongly) because they have evidence for them. The disbelievers in miracles deny them (rightly or wrongly) because they have a doctrine against them."
G.K. Chesterton

"In science we have been reading only the notes to a poem; in Christianity we find the poem itself."
C.S. Lewis