

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of January 20, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	John 1:1-8	Tuesday	John 1:19-28	Wednesday	John 1:29-42
Thursday	John 1:43-51	Friday	John 2:1-12	Saturday	John 2:13-25

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *It Started at Night*

Next week's readings: John 3:1-21

"For God so love the world..." It's the most famous verse in the Bible. It's still on posters at almost every football game on TV. Jesus spoke those words to a man named Nicodemus who came to see him in the middle of the night. Join us next Sunday to learn the story of Nicodemus who started to find the light in his journey with Jesus.



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Group Discussion

Connect	What's the most exhausting thing you've ever done?
Learn	<p>Read John 2:1-12 to learn the story of the "sign" that Jesus performed at an ancient wedding in a place called Cana. Such wedding celebrations were huge events, often lasting several days and involving everyone its village and maybe beyond. Running out of wine would have been publicly humiliating, created a stigma for this family for years to come, and probably been interpreted by the bride and groom as a bad omen for their marriage. What things stand out to you as most important in this passage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you have any questions about this story or is there something that it leaves you wondering?• As you begin to reflect on this passage, why does it seem that Jesus performed this "sign?" <p>The Gospel of John is an intricate piece of literature, full of symbolism and careful use of words. Jesus says in 2:4 that his "hour" or "time" has not yet come. There are other verses in John that refer specifically to Jesus' "hour."</p> <p>Look up John 7:30, 8:20, 12:23-27, and 13:1 for a few examples. What do you think Jesus meant by "his hour"? What does this add to your reading of this story?</p> <p>John also tells us that the jars Jesus' filled with wine were a very specific kind of jar, used for Jewish purification rites. They were empty, but Jesus filled them with something new. Do you think that could be symbolic? Have you ever felt empty in your faith life? Have you ever experienced being "refilled" by Jesus?</p> <p>A wedding celebration was not only a socially important place for Jesus to perform his first sign. It was also an important faith symbol. A wedding banquet was a common image used to symbolize God's new creation or future salvation for his people - a feast full of joyful people. What does this image suggest about salvation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does this setting for Jesus' action add anything to your reading of the story?• What do you think it could mean that the good things in this story happen as people take Mary's good advice to "do whatever he tells you" (2:5)?
Apply	<p>Where in life do you feel exhausted, spent, or all used up?</p> <p>If you feel comfortable, share this with your group so that you can support each other and pray for Jesus to make you new.</p>
Pray	Pray for each other where you feel spiritually or physically spent, and pray for Jesus to give hope and strength to others who are in the same place.