

# Grow Group Summary and Discussion Guide

## Summary

- **Text:** John 2
- **Title:** More Than Wine & Whip
- **Preacher:** Pastor Ryan
- **YouTube Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/ATaixJEs0aE?si=busgvFnpj31FXPvz>

### 1. Introduction & Context

- Pastor Ryan welcomes the congregation and introduces a series on the Gospel of John.
- The series will go through all 21 chapters of John in sections of seven chapters.
- Focus for this sermon: John chapter 2, which contains two key stories.

### 2. Scripture Reading: John 2

- **First story:** The wedding at Cana where Jesus turns water into wine (vv. 1–11).
  - The miracle manifests Jesus' glory and leads His disciples to believe in Him.
- **Second story:** Jesus clears the temple in Jerusalem (vv. 13–25).
  - Jesus judges the misuse of His Father's house and indicates that His body is the true temple.
  - He challenges people to recognize the new way He brings, fulfilling and replacing the old system.

### 3. Main Points

- **Signs Point To Something More**
  - The water-to-wine miracle shows Jesus bringing something new and better (the “new wine”).
  - The temple story emphasizes that Jesus replaces the old covenant with the new covenant, where He Himself is the true meeting place between God and humanity.
  - Reference to Hebrews 8: Jesus brings a “better covenant, built on better promises.”

- Five things these two stories reveal about Jesus:
  - Jesus is the Messiah
  - Jesus has power
  - Jesus has authority
  - God's heart for the nations
  - Jesus Fulfills (This is the main point)
- **Signs Create An Opportunity to Believe**
  - The miracles and teachings of Jesus are signs meant to inspire belief.
  - The Gospel of John (20:30–31) emphasizes that signs are written so people may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and receive eternal life through Him.
  - Belief is a personal response: disciples believed, but it's unclear if others at Cana did.
- **Let's Get Personal**
  - **Empty jars:** People often rely on imperfect methods or personal effort to make themselves right with God (good deeds, self-discipline, religion). Only Jesus' grace and sacrifice purify and restore.
  - **Jesus inspecting the temple/life:** Jesus calls for honest self-reflection and repentance. Believers are encouraged to invite Him to examine their hearts, remove what is harmful, and guide them into His ways (Psalm 139:23–24).

## Discussion Guide

1. Today, we will be looking at John Chapter 2 and thinking about these stories and signs that point to big truths about who Jesus is and His ministry. Have someone **pray** before we open the text.
2. **Conversation starter** (use this question if people need to get warmed up before they dive in)
  - What is your favourite and least-favourite road sign?
3. Choose someone to **read verses 1-12** out loud.
  - What stood out to you in this portion? What questions do you have about this miracle transformation?
4. As we consider this story, **what is revealed about Jesus?**
  - Ex. What does it say about Jesus that He and His disciples were invited to the wedding?
  - Ex. Why did Jesus choose to do His first sign at a wedding?
  - Ex. How does Jesus' response to His mother (which isn't rude) speak to how He sees His earthly ministry?
  - Ex. What does the wine and the abundance of wine reveal about Jesus and His Kingdom?
5. Choose someone to **read verses 13-25** out loud.
  - What stood out to you in this portion? What questions do you have about Jesus cleansing the Temple and the conversation that follows?
6. As we consider this story, **what is revealed about Jesus?**
  - Ex. Why do you think Jesus responds in the way He does?
  - Ex. Does this image of Jesus with a whip and flipping tables challenge your view of Him?
  - Ex. Jesus uses the Temple as a metaphor for Himself. How is Jesus like the Temple?
7. In John's Gospel, the signs and sayings of Jesus are intended to lead us to **belief**.
  - Read John 20:30-31 out loud

- Who does the text say believed as a result of the signs and sayings of Jesus?
  - Why do you think the Religious leaders asked for another sign? Do miracles always lead to true belief?
  - What can we choose to believe in as a result of reading and studying John 2?
8. (*If time permits*) A key theme of these two stories is that Jesus will **fulfill and replace** the old religious systems that no longer work (they are empty or broken).
- What do you know about the Old and New Covenants?
  - Read through Hebrews 8 and note the differences between the Old and New Covenants.
9. **Empty Pots and House Cleaning**
- Here are two ways we can apply these stories this week.
    - **Water Pots:**
      - What are the “empty water pots” in our lives? What religious structures or human activities can never purify/save us? What will cleanse us from sin?
    - **House Cleaning:**
      - Have you let Jesus examine your thoughts, motives, and actions before? Why can it be hard to beat Him search us? What is the result when Jesus helps “clean our house”?
10. Spend time in **prayer** as you close.