The following Scripture-based resource can be used individually or with families, friends and church communities. Allow the reflection, prayer, activities and meditation to set your focus on God’s work in your heart and within your shared life with others.

* * * * * * *

The Wedding at Cana

Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine had given out, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They are out of wine.”

“You must not tell me what to do,” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” Jesus’ mother then told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

The Jews have rules about ritual washing, and for this purpose six stone water jars were there, each one large enough to hold between twenty and thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill these jars with water.” They filled them to the brim, and then he told them, “Now draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast.” They took him the water, which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it.

He did not know where this wine had come from (but, of course, the servants who had drawn out the water knew); so he called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have drunk a lot, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!”

Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee; there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

—John 2:1-11 (GNT)
God's Revelation, Daily

**Reflections on the Wedding at Cana**

Christina Miller

I've attended some great celebrations lately. Hundreds of thousands gathering in worship in Philadelphia. Thousands meeting for prayer on the National Mall in D.C. Dozens of believers singing to the Lord at an arts workshop in New Mexico. These events, big and small, had something in common. In each case, the ordinary routines of daily life made way for something special and festive.

Following these exciting events, I found myself reflecting on similar themes of celebration found in the wedding at Cana in the second chapter of John's Gospel. Jesus joins his closest friends, the disciples, and his mother Mary for a celebration in Galilee. But it isn't just any celebration; it is a wedding.

I love weddings. I love witnessing two people join their lives together before God, family, and friends. I love the couple's hopeful expectancy about what lies ahead. And of course, I love to celebrate with a good party.

It sounds to me like Jesus loves weddings too. As they celebrated the wedding at Cana the wine ran short, but Mary knew what to do. She told Jesus, "They are out of wine," then instructed the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Did Mary anticipate a miracle? What was she hoping for?

Jesus had servers fill six stone jars with water and take some to the headwaiter. When the headwaiter tasted it, he declared it the best wine of the party. Wine? Wasn't this water? Thankfully for the wedding guests, Jesus miraculously turned the water into fine wine and the celebration could continue! This wedding celebration wasn't merely an exchange of vows and a gathering of friends; it was a revelation of God's glory.

John tells us that throughout Jesus' ministry, he continued revealing God's glory through various signs. He fed five thousand, healed the sick, paralyzed, and blind, and even raised the dead to life. Each time, he revealed his identity as the Word made flesh, the only Son of God, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Each time, he provided people what they were genuinely longing for—not more wine to sustain the party, but a transformative encounter with God. Not just food, but nourishment for their spirit. Not just physical healing, but forgiveness. Not just life, but life eternal and abundant.
God’s revelation in our lives continues to unfold every day—not just in the big notable events, but also the quiet ordinary places. We encounter God in our own unique stories and life experiences—like a wedding, or within the shared life of our families, friendships, and communities. May these encounters be added among Jesus’ many revelations, that are too numerous to be recorded, giving us ongoing reasons to celebrate (John 21:25).

* * * * * * *

Prayer

Lord our God, thank you for revealing your glory through your Son Jesus Christ. Draw us into a more intimate union with him: the Word made flesh, the only Son of God, full of grace and truth. May we encounter your glory, like the wedding guests at Cana, and may this encounter meet the genuine longing of our hearts. Not just for food, but nourishment for our spirits. Not just for physical healing, but forgiveness. Not just for life, but life eternal and abundant. Continue to set our hearts and minds on you. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* * * * * * *

Family Activities

*Parents:* Tell your children about your wedding day, or an event that was significant in the life of your family. How did you celebrate? What made it memorable? How was this event more than simply exchanging vows or gathering friends together?

*Children:* Think of a time you attended a special celebration. Maybe it was your birthday. What did you do to prepare for it? What was special about the celebration? Are there things you could celebrate everyday? What would that look like?

*Teenagers:* When the wine ran short at the Wedding at Cana Mary turned to Jesus. But Jesus answered, “My time has not yet come.” Could this mean that Jesus wasn’t ready to start his public ministry? What are some things your parents ask you to do that you don’t feel ready for? Is God inviting you to step out in faith and take a risk?

*Everyone:* Take a moment to reflect on what it means to have God be part of our family. How can we make God the focus of our days? How can we invite God to be an important member of our life together?

Plan a special dinner for your family. This could include your biological family, close
friends, or church group. Send each individual a personally addressed invitation. Set the table with your nicest dinnerware and flowers. During the meal, explain that this is a celebration of being a family. Take turns saying one thing you appreciate about one another.

* * * * * * *

**Group Meditation**
Based on Lectio Divina

Lead your small group in a prayerful reading of the Cana story. Use the ancient Christian practice of Lectio Divina (godly reading) to experience the Scripture in new ways. *(This could also be a valuable process for you to do individually.)*

1. **Lectio (reading):** Slowly read through the story in John 2:1-11. Invite the group to pay attention to each word, phrase, image, and feeling. Read through the passage again. Ask them to identify one particular word, phrase, image, or feeling that stands out for them.

2. **Meditatio (meditation):** Say something like this to the group: *Meditate on your chosen focus, whatever stood out to you. Rather than emptying your mind, set your thoughts on God. Imagine yourself in this particular scene. What would you see, hear, touch? Reflect on why this word or phrase caught your attention and what God is saying to you through it.* Give them several minutes to meditate in silence. Then you might invite them to share some of the thoughts they’ve been focusing on.

3. **Oratio (prayer):** As the leader, you might voice the prayer included above, or you might create your own prayer, based on your meditations. Then invite the group to bring their meditations before God in prayer, start a conversation with God. This could be silent prayer at first, but then you might suggest that they voice a line or two of what they’re saying to God.

4. **Contemplatio (contemplation):** Observe a time of silent contemplation, simply being with God.

*May this shared time of reflection, prayer, activities and meditation lead you into a deeper awareness of God’s presence in your life. And may this awareness be carried forward into the activities of your day and the sacred bonds of your relationships. May almighty God bless you as you go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

* To learn more about the ministry of American Bible Society and for more Bible Resources, visit [americanbible.org](http://americanbible.org).