

## Seedling Group Questions for the week of January 20 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

The sermon for January 20 can be found at [www.saidanotherway.org](http://www.saidanotherway.org)

### Questions for opening up

Have you ever experienced something you would classify as a miracle? Did it teach you something about God?

What is the best party you've ever attended? What made it so memorable?

### Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Paul mentions gifts, services/serving, and activities/working as the manifestations of the Spirit's life in us. Which of those categories do you tend to focus on (notice the most, etc.) when you think of life and ministry in the church? Is it primarily a place to do work/activities? Share gifts? Develop relationships with others? Does one category lead the others? Explain your thoughts.

In the Nicene Creed the Holy Spirit is called "the Lord, the giver of life." How does that description resonate with this passage? Is this how you typically think of the Holy Spirit? Where can you point to signs of life in the church?

What sentence or phrase do you think Paul would highlight or underline in this passage? That is, which point does Paul seem to be stressing most of all? Why might a congregation need to hear that?

### Read John 2:1-11

What might it say about Jesus (or God) that a wedding is the site of his first sign (miracle)?

What is the significance of using jars for ceremonial washing as vessels for new wine? Does that add any level of symbolism or deeper meaning to what happens?

What is the response of the disciples to this event? In what ways does that correspond to your own perception of and reaction to miracles?

### Putting things together

How effective and faithful is your congregation at incorporating people's gifts and abilities for the sake of being a transforming presence in its communities? Is Bishop Desmond Tutu's remark about a letter of a recommendation from the poor a fair assessment of a church's witness? Why or why not?

Pastor Phillip says, "There are so many competing definitions for God out there these days. There are so many people and groups claiming God is like this or like that...Some of them seem pretty hard to argue against." How does one best judge or incorporate a new "epiphany" of what God is like?

It has been said that the main effects of this sign at Cana were joy and abundance. How do you see the life of faith as one of joy and abundance? Is the church good at embodying this?

### Making it personal

What signs/epiphanies has God used to bring you to Christ?

What practices or objects have been helpful for you in acknowledging Christ in your midst? Framed scripture quotes? Icons? Something you carry in your wallet? Or do you not really need anything?

### **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

### **John 2:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.