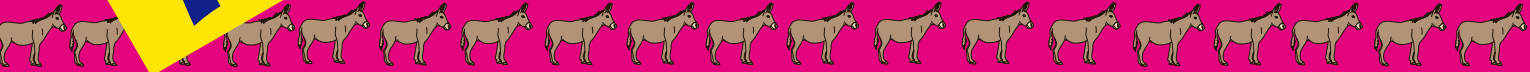


No More Wine!

John 2:1-11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 144-153



Have you ever been to a wedding? What do you remember? The beautiful clothes? The nice people? The flowers? The pretty music? The yummy food and drink? Did you enjoy yourself? Jesus liked to go to weddings too.

The wedding guests filled the house at Cana in Galilee. People overflowed into the yard. The air was full of cheerful voices, music, and laughter. It was a perfect evening.

Mary looked around, enjoying the scene. How contented her friends, the bridegroom's parents, looked! While Mary watched her friends, an unhappy servant scurried up to her. He bent low and whispered in her ear. "The wine has run out."

Mary's smile vanished. Her forehead wrinkled in concern. Quickly she looked around. The large containers that should have held plenty of grape juice were empty. Running out of grape juice would bring

the party to a quick end. The guests would go home. Mary's heart felt heavy. She knew the disappointment and disgrace this would bring to the groom's family. What's more, she had helped plan the party.

Mary felt responsible, but what could she do? The marketplace was closed. There was no way to buy more juice. There was nothing she could do. Or was there?

Then Mary thought of the perfect way to solve the problem—Jesus. He and His disciples were also guests at the wedding.



The Message

We make friends for God when we serve others.

Memory Verse

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others”

(1 Peter 4:10, NIV).

Mary hurried to Jesus. “They are out of wine!” she told Him anxiously.

Jesus understood the seriousness of the situation. But what could He do? “Dear woman, why are you trying to bring Me into this?” Jesus asked kindly. “My time has not yet come.”

Mary felt desperate. Here was an urgent need. Jesus could help, she was certain. Pushing the servants forward, she commanded them, “Do whatever He tells you.”

Jesus looked around and saw six large, stone water jars sitting nearby. Each jar could hold about 20 gallons (about 76 liters).

“Fill these jars with water,” He quietly told the servants.

They hurried to obey. Soon they had filled the six jars all the way to the brim.

“Now draw some water out, and take it to the man in charge of the feast,” Jesus directed.

So the servants filled a jug. As they did, they noticed something strange. This did not look like water. It did not smell like water. Quickly they took it into the feast and filled the glass belonging to the man in charge. He didn't know what had happened. He just lifted his glass and drank. Smiling, he called to the bridegroom, “Everyone else serves the best

wine first,” he said. “And after the guests have drunk a lot, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have saved the best till now!”

This was Jesus' first miracle. His disciples saw what happened when Jesus served others. They determined more than ever to put their faith in Him. They would become His closest friends. WE MAKE FRIENDS FOR GOD WHEN WE SERVE OTHERS too.





S A B B A T H

DO With your family, try to make a new friend for God. Perhaps you can go on a picnic and get acquainted with another family. Maybe you can offer them a cool drink.

READ Read 1 Peter 4:10 and teach it to your family.

SING Sing "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 132). Ask God to help you make new friends.

S U N D A Y

READ With your family, read John 2:1-11. Find Cana on a Bible map. Tell what each of the following did to serve:

_____ Mary _____ The servants _____ Jesus

DO Serve your family some grape juice. Talk about the wedding at Cana.

PRAY Thank God for people who serve you.

DO Make 13 cup-shaped cutouts. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Write the text on one. Arrange the cutouts in order.

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, read 1 John 3:16-18 together. Tell your family what this means in your own words.

DO For the rest of the week, write on a card one instance each day when you have helped someone.

DO Make a list of people who served you today.

SING Sing "We Are the Church, Everyone" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 143). Pray for a friend today.

T U E S D A Y

DRAW During family worship, name some gifts that God has given you. (Anything you are good at is a gift.) Tell each person what you think they do very well. Draw some of the things.

READ Read Romans 12:6-8 together. Act out each of the ways to serve (or gifts) listed in these verses.

DO What does the memory verse say that we should do with gifts?

DO Imagine you are Mary planning the wedding. Make an invitation for Jesus.

Each of the stone jars the servants filled could hold about 20 gallons (76 liters).



W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read John 2:5-8 with your family. What was "nearby"? (verse 6) How many gallons (liters) in all could the six stone water jars hold? Find a gallon (liter) container and measure some water. How many cups of water to a gallon (liter)? How many cups did the servants pour from one of the stone jars?

DO What is "nearby" that you can use to help others?

DO Say your memory verse without help.



T H U R S D A Y

READ For family worship, read John 2:9, 10 together. What kind of wine did Jesus make? Ask a family member to help you learn more about the wine. (See *The Desire of Ages*, page 149.) When we help people, should we try to give them the best?

DO Find pictures of three people in unfortunate situations (poor child, homeless people, someone in the hospital, fire victims). Talk about how you might help people like these. Pray for workers who help them.

DO Ask your family to say your memory verse with you.

F R I D A Y

DO For family worship, do a charade of this week's Bible story. Talk about what you wrote on the "Making Friends for God" index card that you started on Monday. Act out one good deed. Whoever guesses it then acts out a good deed that he/she did. Continue until everyone has had a turn. Then read Galatians 6:9 together.

SING Say the memory verse together; then sing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129).

No More Wine!

PUZZLE

Directions: To find out an important message, cross out every other letter beginning with the first letter.

