



## — Night at the Improv —

### John 2

#### Small Group Plan

Weddings were happy times and Jesus was glad to accept the invitation and share in the joy. But when he arrived at the feast he was not alone. Five disciples were with him. And five extra people may have caused a few complications. In fact, five unexpected guests might provide any festival with a problem, and in this case the wine ran out.

But true to form, as a flexible servant, Jesus moves through three different roles to help bring a solution.

### OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- How would you describe a “flexible” person?
- How flexible are you?

### LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

#### — JESUS BEGINS AS GUEST —

##### John 2:1-2

<sup>1</sup> On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

- Do you identify more with Mary or Jesus in this story? Explain.
- If you were to guess what Jesus, Mary and his disciples were thinking about during the wedding, what comes to mind?
- Why did Jesus enjoy being at this place of joy and new beginning?

#### — JESUS SHIFTS TO SON —

##### John 2:3-5

<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” <sup>4</sup> “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come. <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

- Why didn't Jesus simply say what many today have said, "They made a mistake, and they must live with the consequences. Otherwise, how will they ever learn?"
- In view of the fact that Jesus had a timetable and an agenda — "My time has not yet come" — why does he change his agenda?
- Where else do you see Jesus following a flexible style in his ministry?

## — JESUS BECOMES THE HOST —

### John 2:6-12

<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." <sup>11</sup> This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. <sup>12</sup> After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

- How was Jesus able to be flexible in his style without changing his mission?
- If you had been the bridegroom, would you have been puzzled, amazed or \_\_\_\_\_ when you heard about the new wine? Explain.
- Jesus is not "in charge" of this wedding. He is not responsible for solving its problems. So why does he "step up" and, in effect, play the role of host?

### USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- How can we honor the past while boldly moving into the future?
- How can we become so "organized" that we miss spontaneous opportunities?
- How can Christians today be more flexible and open regarding personal opinions?
- What are some areas of Christian practice where you can put your preferences to the side and become more flexible?
- Close in prayer thanking God for his willingness to come to where we are, to speak our language and to take on our form. Ask for his help to do the same as we attempt to speak to and reach our city.