

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - Open Topic

Date - 06-Dec-2020

Topic - Asking Questions, Seeking Answers (John 2:1-11)

Speaker - Dr Andrew Goh

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Healer
2. God of Miracles

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Be reminded to trust in God's timing
2. Remember that nothing is impossible with God.

Sermon Summary

Questions open the door to insights and understanding. In this familiar story, we see Jesus performing His first miracle. In this story, His mother was there but there is great significance for her role. When Jesus responded to Mary in verse 4, it signifies the end of one relationship (earthly) and the beginning of another greater relationship. His miracle at Cana was not meant to display His miraculous abilities, but rather to help His disciples believe in Him because of the glorious works He displayed.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

- When Jesus uttered the words in verse 4, it signified the end of a mother-Son relationship and the beginning of a Father-Son relationship.
 - Jesus always works in tandem with the Father. (John 5:19)
- The miracle at Cana also reminds us that God is a God of the impossible. He is still a miracle-working God and can intervene in our challenges.
 - Thus, we can submit our challenges to Him and ask Him to intervene in our challenging situations.
 - Remember that nothing is impossible with God – Luke 1:37.
- The miracle in Cana demonstrated the glory of Christ to His disciples. Thus, they believed in Him.
 - God's glory will be fully manifested at His return!

Discussion Questions

1. **“Woman, what does this have to do with me?” (v 4). Was Jesus being rude to His mother in His response? [10 min]**

Leader’s Notes:

- a. *Using the term “Woman” instead of “Mother”. What Jesus said to His mother sounds almost rude in English. However, in the original language, and in that culture, Mary would not have interpreted Jesus’ words that way. The term woman was used like we use the term ma’am. By addressing Mary this way, Jesus distanced Himself from His mother somewhat - He was exerting His independence from her wishes—but in no way was it a rude manner of speaking. Jesus lovingly used the same word from the cross when He tells Mary that He was entrusting her to John’s care (John 19:26).*
- b. *“What does this have to do with me?” This was a common Greek idiom. The phrase was used to ask of the connection between two people. The question could be translated as “What business do we have with each other?” Or, in less formal terms, “What does this have to do with me?” (ESV) or “Why do you involve me?” (NIV). Again, Jesus was expressing the fact that He was independent of His mother; as eager as Mary was to see Jesus do a miracle, she had no right to determine the time or the manner in which Jesus publicly revealed His glory. Jesus made His point gently and without being rude.*
- c. *The English translation of verse 4 does seem as though Jesus was being rude to Mary. However, the original language used paints the opposite picture. Jesus was not rude to Mary but treated her with respect and honour as His earthly mother.*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

Jesus was not rude to His mother. Rather, He wanted to ensure that His life was aligned with God’s will and purposes.

2. **Jesus told Mary that His hour had not yet come. Why then did He still perform the miracle of turning water into wine (v 11)? What can we learn about the example of Christ concerning God’s timing and purposes for our lives? [10 min]**

Leaders’ Notes

Although Jesus did perform the miracle at Cana, it should be noted that He did it in a subtle way. Only Mary, the servants and a few disciples knew what happened. This shows us Jesus’s submission to the Father’s divine timing and purposes. He walked in tandem with the Father’s will and timing. The miracle was not for Jesus to show off His ability, but rather to help His disciples to believe in Him.

Likewise, we should not be in a rush to “help God fulfil His will for our lives”. God has His timing, and He is in control. Therefore, the best thing that we can do is to submit ourselves to His timing and purposes, and not be in a rush for it to come to pass.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Perhaps, there are areas in our lives where we are desperate for God to move. As we have seen from the example of Christ, God is never in a hurry for His will to come to pass. It is always on time and according to His wisdom. Therefore, let us take some time to surrender our “desire for God to move in the here and now”, to embrace that He is sovereign, and to submit ourselves to His timing and wisdom.

3. **This passage teaches us that God is still a miracle-working God today. Is there an area in your life that needs the miraculous touch of God?** [10 min]

Leader's Notes

This is an application question. Encourage your cell members to share areas of challenges and needs. You can end this question by getting the group to pray for one another and ask the Lord to intervene in each challenging situation.

Closing

This story of the first miracle of Christ shows us that God is the God of the impossible. He did miracles then, and He is still doing miracles today. May we never forget that we serve a miracle-working God!

WORKS [10 min]

1. Pray that we will:
 - Submit our lives to God's timing and will
 - Not be in a hurry to see God's will for our lives come to pass.
 2. Pray for the gradual resumption of in-person gatherings
 - We continue to support and encourage one another in our church community through physical and virtual gatherings as we adjust to the new changes.
 - Wisdom and perseverance for the leadership and staff to implement safe management measures and other changes for the in-person gatherings.
 3. Pray for the Christmas evangelistic services on 13 and 20 Dec. As we take comfort that Christ is the light of the world, let us also pray and partner with the Holy Spirit to share our hope in Christ this season, living and shining brightly for Him!
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp.

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.