

Mother's Day

Scripture and Background Information for May 14-20.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Mother's Day is a wonderful opportunity for us to honor and celebrate the biological and spiritual mothers in our lives. It is a time where we can be grateful for all the good our mothers have done for us, but also a time to reflect on the various accounts of mothers throughout the Scriptures. These Biblical mothers are people who offer amazing examples of faith and point us to Jesus. This week, we are looking at how Jesus' mother, Mary, played a unique role in Jesus' first miracle.

Background for John 2:1-11:

Weddings were massive occasions within Jewish culture. The festivities went on for multiple days and, typically, the entire community was involved. Basically, the entire town would shut down to celebrate for about a week. To run out of wine at an event such as this would have brought social shame to the families of those who were getting married, especially the groom's, which is why the need for more wine in this story is so great. Reputations were at stake and Mary believed only one person at this wedding could help so she turns to Jesus.

Mary may not have fully known how Jesus would be able to help in this situation, but her words and actions show that she had full faith in Him and expectantly believed He would somehow provide more wine for the wedding. After a brief exchange of words between Mary and Jesus, He performs His first documented miracle and turns water into some of the best wine those who attended the wedding ever had. Through this miracle, Jesus shows us that He cares deeply about the shame we face in our lives and that He has the power to overcome it all. But we also get a glimpse of what great faith in Jesus looks like from Mary. She trusted that He would be able to provide, and He came through. This story teaches us that we should look to Mary as a great example of what expectant faith in Jesus looks like and look to Jesus as the one who can rescue us from our shame.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. In verse 11, it says that Jesus' glory was manifested in this sign. How does this miracle of turning water into wine show Jesus' glory? What other insights about Jesus can you determine from this passage?
2. What stands out to you from Jesus' interaction with Mary in verses 1-5? What characteristics of the faith Mary demonstrates in this passage would you like to exhibit in your own life?
3. What are situations from your life in which you need to have expectant faith in Jesus? What does it look like to have expectant faith in Jesus within these situations?