

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Series:** Treasures of Mary

**Title:** For Our Joy

**Text:** John 2:1-11

**Speaker:** Steve Berg

**Date:** March 8, 2020



## WARM-UP

Pastor Jeremia often concludes leading our church in worship prayer with these words, "...we pray this for your glory and for our joy." Share with your Life Group what this phrase means to you?

## DISCUSSION

1. Read together in John 2:1-11, the story that John writes about the first miracle of Jesus. At a wedding celebration, Jesus responds to the prompting of his mother Mary, and by a miracle turns water into wine. Discuss with your group all the observations that you have about this miracle. What insights did you have from the first person narrative of Mary telling this story on Sunday?
2. So why would Jesus bother to turn water into wine for a wedding celebration?
3. Steve used Jeremia's prayer phrase to answer this question of "why?"
  - For Our Joy: Discuss why Jesus brings festival joy to all of creation? (Isaiah 25:6-8)
  - For His Glory: Mary, the servants and four of the disciples see the sign of Jesus' glory and believe. Discuss what the miracle meant to these people who witnessed this 'sign' of Jesus' glory.
4. This miracle on one level is simply to prevent the social embarrassment of the groom - not preparing adequately for the wedding feast so there was enough wine. But John includes this story - and I'm sure Mary reflected on the memory of it as a "treasure" - for a deeper reason. Consider these questions as a way to understand the deeper application of this miracle for yourselves:
  - What might be the deeper meaning of Jesus using the water jars used only for ceremonial purification for this miracle? John 1:29
  - Jesus responds to the shame of no wine, but what is the deeper shame that He comes to deal with? 1 John 1:9

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## DISCUSSION

- Jesus said to His mother that "His time had not yet come" for this miracle to happen. What is Jesus saying to Mary?
5. Read Revelation 19:6-9 and let it soak into your soul. Put into your own words what festival joy we long for.
  6. Ponder these treasures as you prepare for Easter:
    - "For people to fall into Jesus' arms and drink of His joy, He will have to die."
    - "If Jesus came primarily to live - we would have a good example. But because Jesus came primarily to die - we have a wonderful Savior."
    - "God is so holy that He had to pay the debt for our sin. God is so merciful that he was glad to pay the debt for our sin."