SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY NOV 26

John 2 · week 2 of 21

The Good Wine and the True Temple · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 26

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 2 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Nov 23
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Nov 24
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Nov 25
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 2 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Nov 26 (Thanksgiving)

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 2:11 · NASB**
>
> *"This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."*

Two scenes: a wedding in Galilee and a whip in Jerusalem. In both, something old is filled and then replaced by Jesus Himself.

John 2 *The Good Wine and the True Temple*

KEY VERSE 2:11

Theme of the chapter. Jesus' first sign turns the water of ritual washing into the best wine, and His first public act in Jerusalem clears His Father's house and points to His body as the true temple. Signs are meant to lead to faith in Him, and He knows the difference between real faith and a crowd's excitement.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

wine	**6**	vv. 3 (×2), 9, 10 (×3)
water	**3**	vv. 7, 9 (×2)
temple	**5**	vv. 14, 15, 19, 20, 21
sign / signs	**3**	vv. 11, 18, 23
believed	**3**	vv. 11, 22, 23
disciples	**5**	vv. 2, 11, 12, 17, 22

JOHN 2:1–5 The Need

1 OBSERVE *What is the problem at the wedding, who brings it to Jesus, and exactly what does she say (2:3)?*

> The wine ran out. His mother says only, "They have no wine" (2:3). She states the need and does not tell Him how to fix it.

2 INTERPRET *Jesus says "My hour has not yet come" (2:4). Trace "hour" in 7:30, 8:20, 12:23 and 17:1. What hour does He mean?*

> The hour of His death and glory at the cross. Sproul: "It's not yet time for Me to enter into My glory." Cana is an early taste of that glory (2:11).

3 APPLY *Mary tells the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it" (2:5). What has Jesus clearly told you to do that you are waiting to understand before you obey?*

> Personal. The servants did not understand why He wanted water in washing jars. They filled them anyway.

JOHN 2:6–12 The Sign

4 OBSERVE *Describe the waterpots: how many, what they were for, how large, and how full the servants filled them (2:6–7).*

> Six stone waterpots "for the Jewish custom of purification," twenty or thirty gallons each (2:6), filled "up to the brim" (2:7).

5 OBSERVE *What does the headwaiter say (2:10)? What three things does verse 11 say about this sign?*

> "You have kept the good wine until now" (2:10). It was the beginning of His signs, it "manifested His glory," and "His disciples believed in Him" (2:11).

6 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Guzik: "The wine was better than the water; and the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant." Why does it matter that these were purification jars? Compare Exodus 7:20.*

> The jars belong to the old system of washing. Moses' first sign turned water to blood, a judgment. Jesus' first sign turned water to wine, a joy. The old vessels are filled and surpassed by Jesus.

7 APPLY *The world serves its best first and the poorer wine later (2:10). Where have you seen that pattern in your own life, and what does Cana promise instead?*

> Personal. The study names the first drink, the first high, the first lie that works, and then the bill. Jesus keeps the best for last.

JOHN 2:13–17 The Cleansing

8 OBSERVE *What did Jesus find in the temple, and what did He do about it (2:14–16)?*

> Sellers of oxen, sheep and doves, and money changers. He made a scourge of cords, drove them all out, poured out the coins, overturned the tables, and said, "Stop making My Father's house a place of business" (2:16).

9 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Was Jesus out of control? Guzik: "He did not do it in a flash of anger. He carefully took the time to make a whip of cords." Henry: "Discretion must always guide and govern our zeal." What separates His anger from most of ours?*

> His was deliberate, aimed at what dishonored His Father, and it protected the court where Gentiles could pray. The disciples remembered Psalm 69:9 (2:17). Ours is usually quick and about ourselves.

10 APPLY *Read 1 Corinthians 3:16. What "tables" have you set up in God's temple that He would overturn?*

> Personal. The study names deals made with sin, things we sell our attention to, and religion used to get something.

JOHN 2:18–22 The Sign Demanded

11 OBSERVE *What do the Jews ask for, what does Jesus answer, and how do they misunderstand Him (2:18–20)?*

> They ask for a sign to prove His authority. He says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (2:19). They think of the building, forty-six years in the making (2:20).

12 INTERPRET *What temple did He mean (2:21)? When did the disciples finally understand (2:22)? What does that make the greatest sign?*

> "The temple of His body" (2:21). After He was raised they remembered and "believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken" (2:22). Sproul: "the supreme sign is the resurrection."

JOHN 2:23–25 The Hearts

13 OBSERVE *Many "believed in His name" (2:23). What was their belief based on, and how did Jesus respond (2:24)?*

> They believed "observing His signs" (2:23). But Jesus "was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men" (2:24).

14 INTERPRET *Guzik calls this "thin, superficial belief." What is the difference between faith that stops at the sign and faith that reaches the Person? How does 2:25 set up chapter 3?*

> Faith in spectacle fades when the signs stop. Saving faith trusts Jesus Himself. "Believed" and "entrusting" are the same Greek verb. He "knew what was in man" (2:25), and the next man He meets is Nicodemus.

15 APPLY *Jesus knows what is in you and came anyway. What would it look like to stop trying to impress Him and come honestly?*

> Personal.

WORD STUDY

16 WORD *sēmeion (G4592), sign. John calls the miracles "signs" (2:11). A sign points away from itself. According to 20:30–31, where are the signs meant to lead you?*

> To believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and to have life in His name. The order in 2:11 is sign, then glory, then faith.

17 WORD *naos (G3485), sanctuary, the dwelling place of God. In 2:14–15 John uses hieron, the temple courts. In 2:19–21 he switches to naos. Why does that word fit Jesus' body?*

> The sanctuary is where God Himself dwells. Jesus is the presence of God among His people. Henry: "The body of Christ is the true temple, of which that at Jerusalem was a type."

ACTS 17:11 The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK

Season 1, Episode 5, "The Wedding Gift" (2:1–12) and Season 5, Episode 2, "House of Cards" (temple, 2:13–17)

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Read 2:13. When in Jesus' ministry does John place the cleansing of the temple? When does the show place it?

> At the first Passover, at the start of His ministry (2:13). The show places it in the last week, where Matthew, Mark and Luke record a cleansing. Many teachers hold that there were two cleansings.

C2 OBSERVE

Read 2:1–2. Who does John say was at the wedding? Whom does the show add?

> Jesus' mother, Jesus and His disciples. The show adds characters the text does not name, such as Thomas and Ramah delivering the wine.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 2 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.