

Jesus has brought his new disciples to a village wedding at Cana, and they are about to be blown away by the miraculous sign of their rabbi transforming a huge amount of water into wine. What does it mean?

**Getting into the story.** Read: John 2.1 – 12

What do you **notice** in this passage that is  
amazing  
puzzling  
important?

Different people at the wedding had different reactions to the miracle of water turned into wine. Look at verses 11 – 12. Who does John suggest the miraculous sign was principally intended for?

### **Miracle or sign?**

Where the other gospel writers talk about Jesus' 'miracles' (literally, 'works of power'), John talks about 'signs'. The changing of the water into wine is the 'first sign'. The signs all point to what God is doing through Jesus. They lead us to reflect on Jesus's 'hour' when his glory is finally and fully revealed at the Cross.

These **questions** will help us 'unpack' the meaning of the first sign:

### **Transformation**

- How does God take ordinary things and change them into something special?
- In what ways do Christians get changed and made new?
- How do you imagine the whole of creation will look when it is one day made new and perfect in Christ? (It's not just a dream; Christians look to the transformation of the whole creation.)

### **Abundance**

If you want to work out how much wine Jesus produced at the wedding, the answer is: enough to fill about 5 slimline green-topped wheelie bins! In addition, this was wine of the best quality.

See why Jesus came in John 10.10.

- What does life with Jesus lived 'to the full' look like?
- The New Testament has a lot to say about wedding feasts and banquets. (For example, in the other gospels and in Revelation). Share what you can find or remember about this theme. Who is invited and who is at the feast? Why is there a party?

### **Abundant living in God's abundant love: discussion**

What could your home group do this year to tap into God's abundant life in all its fullness? Think about your spiritual growth, but also about ways in which you can be part of God's transformation of the world around you. Try to come up with something which the home group can take forward together.