



SHADOW MOUNTAIN LEADER

Packet

We do not have an outline this week.

Getting Started

1. Describe a fun event that you have enjoyed recently (e.g., graduation, wedding, work celebration, family get-together, etc.).

2. What made this event enjoyable? Which memory of this event feels the most smile-inducing?

Going Deeper

1. As a group, read John 2:1-11. Describe what it might have been like to have met Jesus as if He was just another wedding attendee. Imagine that this was before you knew His real identity as the Lord and Messiah. In your mind's eye, what would He have been doing? How would He have acted? **It's important to understand that one of the truths we learn about our Savior in this passage of Scripture is that He is found participating in joyous festivities. He is not, as some have thought, a joy killer. He is the joy bringer. He is as comfortable at dinner parties as He is at deathbeds. He is the God of fun, laughter, and enjoyment.**

2. Read Matthew 21:12-13 and John 11:35. Describe the differences between Jesus as the joy bringer at a wedding compared to Jesus as the temple table “overturner” and Jesus the weeping friend of Lazarus. Which of these three do you most associate with Jesus Christ? **Many of us can have a feeling in our hearts, if we're not careful, that God and Jesus Christ expect us all to take everything far too seriously. You have probably heard people call God the “fun police” as if He is looking down at the world to catch anyone enjoying life so He can tell them, “Stop it!” But when you see Jesus Christ in the context of His life and ministry, you realize what a wonderfully balanced person He was and how easily He transitioned through the ebbs and flows of life. Whether it was in times of sorrow or in times of joy, He was comfortable there.**

3. Read John 2:11. Why did Jesus turn the water into wine? What would your response have been, had you witnessed this miracle first-hand? **Why did Jesus perform this miracle? To demonstrate who He was so that those who saw it would believe in Him. You say, “Well, didn't His disciples believe in Him already?” Yes, they believed with their heads. They believed on the basis of what they had heard, but they had never seen Him do a miracle before. And now, having seen what Jesus did, they believed with their hearts. That's the purpose of all of the miracles recorded for us: After we have read and understood them, we will believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

4. Thinking back to your own conversion experience, how did Jesus change you? In what way did your “water” type of life get transformed into a “wine” quality of living? How did your day-to-day experiences become something completely new? **Whenever Jesus comes into somebody’s life, there always comes a new quality which is like turning water into wine. You know that without Jesus Christ, life is ultimately uninteresting and dull like water. But when Jesus comes into your life, it becomes a thrilling and exhilarating way to live. Wherever Jesus went and whatever He did, He always left people better than when He found them. The miracle at the wedding is just a snapshot of the kind of ministry that Jesus would have from that moment on, always walking into situations, changing people’s lives, and bringing them to a place of a higher quality of living than they could ever have known without Him.**

5. Describe how this water-to-wine story also speaks of the transformation that will take place in the future, when Jesus comes back to bring His family home to the Father. How different will your life be in heaven? **Someone has said, “And when all of the struggles of this life are over, and like tired children, we lie down to sleep, and we awaken in a land without weariness, and without tears, and without crying, we shall say to Him with gratitude in our hearts, ‘Lord, you have saved the best wine until last.’”**

