

Monday
John 2:1–11

Not too long after Jesus' cousin John had baptized him, Jesus attended a wedding celebration in a town in Galilee called Cana. Jesus went there with his disciples and his mother, Mary. A marriage celebration was a joyful occasion that lasted a long time, while the guests enjoyed wonderful food and drank wine. This feast lasted so long that the host ran into a problem: there was no more wine left to serve his guests!

Mary told Jesus about the trouble: "They have no wine." Mary seemed to know that Jesus could do a miracle to fix the problem. How did Mary know what Jesus could do? Had she seen him do a miracle before? Probably in private, but this celebration was very public with a lot of people around.

Jesus asked her, "What does that have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." Jesus meant that the time for his public ministry, when he would perform many miracles, had not yet begun.

But Mary trusted Jesus. She told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby there were six large stone water pots that could each hold 20 to 30 gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." The servants filled them to the brim.

Then Jesus said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." The surprised servants obeyed again.

When the master of the feast tasted what was in the cup, he did not taste water. He tasted wine! The master of the feast did not know where the good wine had come from, but the humble servants who had filled the big jars knew!

After tasting the wine, the master of the feast talked to the man who was getting married. He said, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and once people have had plenty to drink, then the poor wine comes out. But you have kept the best wine until now."

This was Jesus' first miracle recorded for us in the Bible. It showed Jesus' glory to his disciples, and they believed him. Jesus did many other miracles, so that people would know that he was not just an ordinary man – he was God's Son, who had come to be their Savior. Jesus' miracles are signs so we can see Jesus' glory too, and believe in him as his disciples did.

- **What problem happened at the wedding party, and what did Jesus do?**

Close with prayer

WEEK FOUR: JESUS FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND

Tuesday

Matthew 14:13–21

“Where will we get food to feed all these people?” asked the disciples. They were worried. More than five thousand people sat on the grass. They wanted to hear Jesus teach. They wanted to see Jesus do miracles. They were hungry too. There was no place to buy food. Jesus wanted to feed the people.

Jesus told his disciples to get some food. The disciples didn't know what to do. That much food would cost too much, and they were far from the markets. One disciple found a boy who had brought his own lunch. He had two small fish and five little loaves of bread. The disciples knew it wasn't enough to feed five thousand people, but they showed the lunch to Jesus anyway.

Jesus prayed. Then he said, “Pass around the food.” Jesus broke off pieces of bread and fish. Then he broke off more, and still more. He never ran out of food. All the people ate as much as they wanted. The disciples even had twelve baskets of leftovers.

Jesus wanted the people to know that he is truly God. Providing food for five thousand people was wonderful, but his best miracle was still to come. Soon, he would die on the cross and arise at Easter to save us. Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection to earn us forgiveness, new life, and salvation is all we need to order to be spiritually alive, well-fed, and healthy. That is why Jesus calls himself the living bread.

Dear God, you have forgiven my sins through Jesus. Plus, you have brought me to faith in you. Feed me on God's Word so that I may live with you forever. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday

1 Kings 17:7-16

There once was a famine that left everyone without much food or water. God provided for his prophet Elijah by sending him to stay near a brook that still had water and by having ravens deliver food to him each day. "Then the word of the LORD came to him: 'Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.'" A widow is a woman whose husband has died and she has not remarried.

This part of Elijah's story is funny if you fully understand what God has told him to do. Evil Queen Jezebel was angry with Elijah at the time, and she wanted Elijah killed. And Jezebel, who married the King Ahab, the king of Israel, was from Zarephath, which is not in Israel. Do you think it is interesting that God would send his prophet Elijah to the area where Jezebel was from? Do you think it was because Jezebel would've never thought to look for Elijah in her homeland where everyone worshiped Baal?

Even though it may have seemed strange to Elijah to go to the land where people worshiped Baal, when he heard God's words, he arose and went to Zarephath.

Elijah traveled to Zarephath which was 100 miles away. He hopped on his motorcycle and zoomed out of town....no that's not right. There were not motorcycles back in the time of Elijah! Elijah tied up his sandals and began his long hike to Zarephath. However long it took him to get there, he must have been very thirsty.

When Elijah arrived in Zarephath he must have wondered how he would recognize the woman God said would provide for him. As he arrived he saw a woman gathering sticks. Elijah asked the woman, "Could you bring me some water in a jar that I may have something to drink?" The woman turned to go and get him some water. Her quick response to his request for a drink caused Elijah to realize this must be the widow God had told him about. As she was going to get his water, he asked her if she would bring him some bread to eat.

She said to Elijah, "I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

"Don't be afraid, go home and bake a small cake of bread for me first. Then bake some bread for your son and for yourself," Elijah said. Elijah could speak with boldness to the widow because the Lord said, "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth."

She went back to her house and did exactly what Elijah told her to do. She took a few spoonfuls of flour and placed them in a bowl. Poured a little oil into the flour and mixed it together and made a little patty of dough and placed it in a pan to cook for Elijah, her son, and herself. What should have been an empty jar of flour and an empty jar of oil was a jar with flour and a jar with oil. This was a miracle! Only God could keep her oil and flour from running out. Imagine how excited she was when she took the bread and gave Elijah some to eat!

Elijah stayed with the widow and her son that night. The next day she made some more bread. Each time she prepared the bread, she always had more flour and oil in their jars that she didn't replenish. This was an amazing miracle! God's power had caused the poor widow to have a never-ending supply of flour and oil!

God provides for us, too, and has power to take care of you in any kind of circumstance. Nothing is too hard for God. Not even death, or hell, or sin. God has miraculously provided for us with a Savior, so that we may live and be satisfied forever.

God, thank you for giving me all that I need and all that I have. Help me to view you not only as the one who gives me everything that I want, but the one who is everything that I want. In Jesus, amen.

Thursday

Exodus 15:22–17:6

The people of Israel were happy to leave Egypt, but they were not happy to live in the desert. They didn't trust God to take care of them. Water was hard to find, and they were thirsty. They became angry at Moses. They were even angry with God.

God still loved the people and helped them. He gave them water from a rock to drink, but then the people were still hungry. They wanted meat. They wanted bread. Once again, they became angry at Moses and God. Once again, God took care of his people. He sent them birds to eat. And he made a special food for them each day.

God made a bread that the people called manna. It was thick like a cracker, and it had a honey flavor. The people would pick it up off the ground every morning. God told them to take only enough to eat for that day. God fed the people manna each day for forty years! Praise God! Each day, he takes care of our needs too. He gives us forgiveness, food, and so much more.

- **Name some of the blessings God gives you each day.**

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for providing me with both earthly and heavenly treasures, especially faith, forgiveness, and an eternal future with you. Thanks for sending Jesus to make these blessings possible. In his name I pray. Amen.

Friday
John 9

While Jesus and his disciples were walking along one day, they saw a man begging for money. The man couldn't work at a regular job because he had been blind since the day he was born. Jesus' disciples asked, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" In Jesus' time, many people thought that all their troubles were punishments for sin.

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." Jesus knew that the man's blindness would help many people see God's glorious power at work. Jesus explained that he had come to do these works of God. Then he said an amazing thing: "I am the light of the world."

Jesus spat on the ground and made mud to put on the blind man's eyes. After that, Jesus told the blind man, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." The man did exactly what Jesus told him to do. When he came back, he was able to see for the first time in his life. Jesus had healed the blind man!

The people in the city were amazed to see the man who used to be a blind beggar. He was rejoicing – he could see! Some of the Jewish religious leaders were angry, however, because so many people were accepting the authority of Jesus. And they didn't like it that Jesus healed people even on the Sabbath day, the Jewish day of worship and rest. But Jesus knew that his authority and power to heal came straight from God the Father.

Later, Jesus saw the man who had been blind and asked him if he believe in the One whom God had promised to send. The man answered, "Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?"

Jesus told the man that he – Jesus! – was the Messiah, the Promised One. The man responded, "Lord, I believe," and he worshipped Jesus.

The blind man had received the gift of sight for his eyes, but he also received the gift of sight for his soul, the gift of faith – to believe that Jesus was the promised Savior.

Jesus helped the man born blind so that he could see with his eyes, but also so that he could believe in his heart! Sin makes people blind to God's truth, but Jesus is the light of the world who takes away the darkness of our hearts.

- **How did Jesus heal the blind man?**
- **Who did Jesus tell the blind man that he was?**
- **What does it mean that Jesus is the "light of the world"?**

Close with prayer