

IN YOUR CORNER



Week 1: January 5-11

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests
Celebrate! / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

2min

Share the Vision: We want our small group to be less like a weekly gathering and more like a team.

5min

Hook Question: Who do you remember being there for you when everything in your life fell apart? What happened?

2min

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

Sometimes, our wine runs out. We hit rock bottom. It all falls apart. We have a saying in our church: "You are either in a crisis, coming through a crisis, or about to experience a crisis." We say this because it is not unlike what Jesus said to His disciples. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble," but He also said, "but be of good cheer, because I have overcome the world."

When life gets messy it is hard to navigate. So often we have no idea what to do. It is all we can do to take the next breath, the next step, and face the next moment. When we are in the middle of crisis, we need guidance. We need someone to stand up for us, someone to advocate for us. We need someone who will be there and be in our corner when our wine runs out.

Today's story is a great picture of this reality. Literally, Jesus was at a wedding feast where the wine ran out. Running out of wine at a wedding would have been terribly embarrassing. When the wine ran out, Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew exactly who to turn to. She turned to Jesus and she led others to turn to Jesus. That's the image we need to have in our minds as we hear this week's story. This is where our story begins...

12min

Tell the story from John 2:1-11: *Remember to change up the storyteller often.*

Rebuild the story: *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*

Read the story from John 2:1-11: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story? What stands out to you the most?
- What do you think it looks like to be there for someone when their wine runs out?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- What do you think God is trying to show you through this story and our discussion?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

***Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week.
Close in prayer.***



Week 1: Reading the Bible Together in 2020

“But encourage one another every day, while it is called today, so that not one of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrews 3:13

By now, we hope you have decided to join our pastors and read the Scriptures with us in 2020. We will be using the Bible reading plan called *The One Year Bible*. You can find details about the plan on the [Read Together](#) website.

This week is the time to recruit your small group to read the Bible with you in 2020. If they don't jump in right away, they can jump in at any point in the year. New people in your group can also join us at any time this year. Still, it is always great to get people going at the beginning.

Here are the principles we will follow as we read Scripture together in 2020:

1. **Read together every day.** If we fall behind, we won't get anxious about playing catch up. Instead, we will always start by reading the passages for that day and asking God to speak to us through those passage. Once we finish those passages, we can catch up on other days if we want to (but no pressure!).
2. **Focus on relationship with Jesus and others.** Reading God's Word together is about knowing Him, knowing who we are, and growing in faith and love. The Bible is God's book, and His book is all about right relationship with Him and others.
3. **Share your insights with others.** There is power in reading Scripture together! We learn to understand and process Scripture the right way as we read it in community. In fact, the church experienced its darkest days in church history when it left reading Scripture together! Find a way to get people into a text or chat group so that they can share their insights daily with one another.

That's our strategy! Will you join us in 2020 as we read Scripture together? Will you recruit your small group to read with you?