

Second Sunday of Epiphany
For Group Meetings from January 13 through January 19

Prayer of the Day: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:

Share: How did last week's scripture (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22) work in your life?

Mission: What was most satisfying about your ministry last week? Where do you see God at work? How did you participate in God's missional activity? ***How did inviting go last Saturday and Sunday? How many new people did you talk to?***

Hear: John 2:1-11

Explore Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. As you hear this story, does it make you think of any other Biblical stories from the Old or New Testament? Look them up if you think of one. Or a personal story? Where does your mind go and what do you notice?
2. People were expected to bring wine and food to marriage feasts in the ancient world but they ran out and didn't have enough. How does this first miracle of Jesus frame his ministry and what he's all about? What does it tell us about generosity and Jesus?
3. What might this story teach us about expectations for hospitality in Jesus' world?

Connect Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. How does hospitality relate to our call to love our neighbors? How can we show hospitality in our lives and in the church?
2. How is the metaphor of marriage as God's covenant with Israel helpful or useful in thinking about God's relationship with us as Christians? How is it not helpful or useful?
3. Jesus' generous actions caused others to follow and believe in him. How might this miracle of Jesus teach us about generosity and how others might see our example and learn about Jesus' love for them?

Prepare: Memorize this verse: "*Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.*" (John 2:11). How do you hear God calling you?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Read Isaiah 62:1-5. How does this speak into your life?

Reflect: What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

OUR MISSION TOGETHER: As a missional congregation we celebrate Christ's presence, invite people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and equip them to serve in a broken world.

Notes for ChristCare leaders:

Jesus' first miracle of his ministry shows us God's generosity and hospitality in providing for us what we need. It is good for us to reflect on how generous God truly is to us and on how we might be generous out of gratitude for the love, hope, and mercy we receive in the gift of Jesus Christ. Jesus is a model for us in providing for those in need, welcoming those who need welcomed, and how our actions will reveal his love in the world so others will come to know him. All we do can be set against the question of whether it points to God and reveals God's love for us. Our ways of hospitality and welcoming others are spiritual practices that let the Holy Spirit move among us and fill our hearts with love as we build relationships with others based on our faith in God that calls us to love our neighbor.

Thanks be to God,
Pastor Andrea acain@desertcross.org

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
Who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified died and was buried;
He descended to the dead,
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen