



EPISODE 5 – THE WEDDING GIFT

The CHOSEN Discussion Guide

Watch - Discuss - Learn - Rejoice

...A wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ...Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so. ...(this) was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. Jn 2:1-11.

Watch

This episode uses historical fiction to lead up to the miracle recorded in John 2:1-12. And it presents what it might have looked like if Nicodemus secretly interviewed John the Baptist.

Discuss

- 1) Describe and evaluate based on Scripture how this episode presents John the Baptizer.
- 2) Share the fictional scene that depicts Peter's excitement and trepidation when talking to his wife about his discipleship. How might this same type of scene play out in a home today?
- 3) Thomas is introduced with a fictional backstory as a caterer. Describe what we know about Thomas from the Bible and compare it to the character presented here.
- 4) Remah is an invented character, a wine merchant who portrays one of the "women... many others" who followed Jesus (Luke 8:1-3). Discuss the pros and cons of portraying unnamed figures of Bible history.
- 5) Dinah and Rafi are invented characters, portraying struggling, unwealthy parents of the groom. Helah and Abner are invented characters, portraying wealthy parents of bride. Retell how the episode presents growing tensions between the two wedding families. How does this storyline help further one of the main themes of this episode?
- 6) Evaluate: James the lesser/younger (aka not James son of Zebedee) and Thaddeus (aka the other Judas, not Iscariot) are given the fictional backstory of being fellow stoneworkers who were employed with Jesus in making a public latrine.

Learn

- a) In this episode Mary refers to her wedding with Joseph as "not like everyone else's." Explain: the virgin birth of Jesus was not widely known or accepted by his peers.
- b) The disciples are presented as expecting a grand wedding in which Jesus reveals his status as Messiah. How might they have felt surprised by Jesus' first sign?
- c) Thomas is presented as someone who relies on reason and logic. It serves him in his work. How should we use our reasoning when it comes to the Word of God?
- d) Peter and Andrew are presented as newbies, unfamiliar with life as a disciple. Share some of the worries new missionaries might face today and what enables them to move ahead.
- e) Mary and Jesus would have known the wedding families. Comment on the way this episode has Jesus mention his childhood friends wouldn't have found him impressive.
- f) The Baptizer is presented as quoting from Proverbs 30:4. How does this proverb point to the Messiah? In what ways are both Israel and Jesus uniquely called "God's son"?
- g) At the opening, young Jesus is presented as eager to learn God's Word. (See Luke 2:41-52). This episode also has Jesus refer to his mother as, "The most important person I know." Explain how the true Jesus perfectly honored both God and his parents.
- h) Why is it fitting to highlight the truth that Jesus and his disciples had humble origins? Why is it significant to include a portrayal of Peter as embarrassed at the thought?

Rejoice

- 1) Jesus' first public sign was not performed for his own sake. Identify at least three ways you can finish this sentence: "Jesus turned the water into wine for..."
- 2) The wedding guests in this episode danced as they sang a song based on Jeremiah 33:1-16. Read it and share the biblical pictures of Jesus as the fulfillment of the one who was prophesied to bring a promised new era of celebration.

*Thomas: "With the directions you have provided I see no logical solution to the problem."
Jesus: "It's going to be like that sometimes, Thomas ... I will show you a new way (of seeing)."*
