

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Second Sunday After the Epiphany**  
**Gospel Lesson for Adults**

**Scripture: John 2:1-11**

Epiphany: Shimmering glimpses of the abundance of the Kingdom of God. Perhaps we, too, noticed a star and followed it. Or maybe someone led us to the gift of faith. Now we take the Light – the Good News – out into the world. Will others see the light shimmering in us? Will they risk taking a journey into faith with us?

**A notation for this week's Gospel**

Jesus begins his ministry not behind a pulpit, but at a party: a wedding banquet, the most extravagant celebration a village could contain. "They feasted upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delight." (Psalm 36:8) And the best wine is saved for the last.

**Theme: Invited to a party**

**Before Class:** You will need copies of the Bible and of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Bring the participants' plastic bags of cards and enough blank cards to give one to each person. Bring additional plastic bags and an cards for any newcomers.

**Beginning:** When you are gathered, make a statement, similar to this one (rephrase it to make it comfortable for you): "I wonder how our time together today would be if EACH of us had gotten up this morning, stretched, gotten dressed and headed for church with this thought in mind: 'I have been invited to a party and I can hardly wait to get there to celebrate!'" In what ways has this day been a celebration so far? And, if it has not been, what would make it more of a celebration? Hand out the cards from last week, and have a supply for those not present the week before, telling them the cards are for recording our 'epiphanies' as they come to us throughout our time together in the season of Epiphany. (See adult lesson plan for the First Sunday after Epiphany.)

**Opening Prayer:** Here we are, God, with you in our midst. Help us to notice you and to live expectantly. Amen.

**The Scripture:** Ask for one person to read the scripture all the way through. Invite people to circle words that stick out for them. At the conclusion of the reading, invite people to silently re-read the passage and then underline passages that stood out for them. After a few minutes, invite people to share these observations and then go to the questions.

**Questions:** ("Questions" to consider – not expecting clear "answers.")

I wonder why Mary turned so quickly to Jesus when she noticed that the wine being served was running out? Was she expecting him to "fix" it? Was it an opportunity for Jesus to show his authority?

I wonder why Jesus so abruptly dismissed Mary's request and then proceeded to solve the problem? In what ways is it comforting or disturbing to us?

I wonder what the lesser wine conveys to us?

Six stone jars, each capable of holding up to 30 gallons of liquid – what does this convey to us about abundance?

Identify the people "surprised" by this new – and best – wine, which the steward thought to be saved for the last. Talk about what their reaction might have been.

What else might "saving the best wine for the last" convey to us?

**Getting Closure:** Invite the group to share what epiphanies or “ah-ha” moments they may have encountered today. Invite them to write it on their cards. (Before the end of your time, collect each person’s bag of cards.)

**Closing Prayer:** God of miracles, help us to look for ‘the good wine’ now in our lives and help us to share it with those around us. Amen.

## John 2:1-11

### The Wedding at Cana

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' <sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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