



## Week 9: John 1-3

### Study Guide for the week of Feb. 23 - March 1

#### Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time with John 2:1-11, the wedding at Cana.

Did you know celebration is one of the spiritual disciplines, along with prayer, fasting, confession, solitude, etc? Jesus performs his first miracle in John to prolong the festivities, so the party could go on! Realizing this should lead us to a sense of “carefree gaiety and a sense of thanksgiving.”

What is easy for you to celebrate in your life right now? What is difficult for you to celebrate in your life right now, where your grief won't surrender to dancing? In what ways are joy and laughter part of your life? What have been some of the ways you have experienced the joy of the Lord over the last year?

Being in an ever-growing relationship with Jesus should make Christians the most joy-filled people around. So celebrate! This week, get together with one or more friends simply to relax and enjoy time with each other. Celebrate the simple goodness of life: play a game, indoors or out; watch a funny movie; tell silly jokes and stories; enjoy a good meal together (banish the anxiety of preparation!); have a good laugh; sing light-hearted songs; and rejoice in God's loving care for you.

#### Discussion starters

1. Reread John 1:1-5. Now read Genesis 1:1-5. What similarities do you notice? Who or what is the “Word” John is speaking of? Our answer is found in John 1:14. What point do you think John is making about a new creation and Jesus?
2. John the Baptist certainly stood out in a crowd as a unique person – he wore weird clothes and ate weird food! Have you ever encountered people like that? Have you ever been a person like that?! John the Baptist ate and wore what he did as an act of obedience to God. In what ways are you acting in obedience to God that seem “weird” to a world who doesn't embrace Jesus?
3. Reread John 1:24-28. What do we learn about John the Baptist's character here? Jesus called John the greatest prophet (Luke 7:28), yet John displayed deep humility. What does that teach us about how followers of Jesus are to live?
4. Reread John 1:35-39. Why do you think John's disciples began to follow Jesus? What was John the Baptist's response to his disciples' change? (Hint: take a look at John 3:30). Why do you follow Jesus? Are you willing to “remain with him” as John's disciples did – a lifetime commitment of learning from and following Jesus?
5. In John, the word “believe” does not mean to passively accept some idea someone else has taught you, it means active trusting. Would you consider your faith more active or passive? How are you moving into a more active faith? What do you need to do to stay active?

#### Bible verse to memorize: John 3:16-17