



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b>	When Something is Missing	<b>SPEAKER</b>	SP Chua Seng Lee
<b>THEME</b>	Encountering Jesus: The Book of John	<b>DATE</b>	7 & 8 Feb 2026

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

SP unpacks Jesus' first recorded miracle in John 2:1-11 - the turning of water into wine at the wedding in Cana, to show how God responds when something is missing. Wine, an important element of a wedding celebration, ran out. What could have been an embarrassment for the host instead became the setting for a miracle when Jesus stepped in and restored the celebration.

## FOUR TRUTHS OF GOD

The sermon highlights Mary's response as a model of faith for believers today. She demonstrates a posture of prayer, trust and obedience, encouraging believers to commit their needs to God and respond to His leading.

- a) See the need (John 2:3) - Mary was sensitive and attentive to the needs of the people. She noticed what was missing while others did not.
- b) Surrender the need to Jesus (John 2:3) - Mary brought the need directly to Jesus, instead of taking matters into her own hands.
- c) Submit to God (John 2:4-8) - Although Jesus' reply, "My hour has not yet come", seemed like a delay, Mary trusted Him. She instructed the servants to do whatever Jesus said. Through their full obedience, Jesus turned ordinary water into extraordinary wine - an abundance of good wine, revealing that when God provides, He provides generously and abundantly. When we obey God, He can turn what is missing into a miracle (John 2: 9-10).

SP highlights four truths about God through this miracle:

### 1) God is great - live by His plan

God is sovereign and in control. Not every need is our personal calling. Life is short, needs are many, and humans are weak - but God is great. Believers are called to live purposefully according to God's specific assignment, trusting in His timing even when answers seem delayed.

## 2) God is generous - give by His leading

Jesus provided six stone waterpots filled with good wine, much more than what was needed. God does not merely meet needs; He blesses abundantly and He gives the best. This challenges believers to live generously as faithful stewards, led by God.

## 3) God is gracious - receive His grace

The waterpots are used for ceremonial purification under the Law. Jesus transformed them into vessels of the finest wine, symbolising that He came not to abolish the Law but to fulfil it and replace it with grace. Believers are invited to receive God's grace and live transformed lives that extend grace to others.

## 4) God is good - believe in Him today.

Although Jesus could perform the miracle himself, He invited the servants to participate. This reveals God's goodness - He allows His people to share in His work and joy through obedience. Ultimately, God's goodness is seen at the cross, where Jesus' "hour" finally came and He gave His life so that sinners could receive forgiveness and life.

## CONCLUSION

In His first miracle, Jesus turned water into wine. In His final miracle, Jesus turned wine into blood - poured out for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:28). All of Jesus' signs reveal His glory and lead people to believe (John 2:11, John 20:30-31). When we believe, and when we see the need, surrender it to Jesus and submit in obedience, God can turn what is missing into a miracle.

# QUESTIONS

1. How have you personally experienced or witnessed God's greatness, generosity, graciousness and goodness in yours or another person's life? How did that expand your view of who God is?

2. Mary responded to the needs of others by seeing the need, surrendering it to Jesus, and submitting in obedience. Which of the responses do you find most challenging, and why?

3. The servants obeyed Jesus' instructions even though they did not know the outcome. What might obedience look like for you this week, even if the outcome is unclear?