



Faith Sharing on Wine Glasses and Fish Bowls

Opening Prayer

Psalm 34: 1-6, 8, 17-18

All O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Reader:

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.

All O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Reader:

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

All O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Reader:

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.

All O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Reader:

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

All O taste and see that the Lord is good.

John 2:1-12 (NRSV)

A reading from the Gospel
according to Saint John

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,

“They have no wine.”

And Jesus said to her,

“Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.”

His mother said to the servants,

“Do whatever he tells you.”

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them,

“Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them,

“Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.”

So they took it. 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 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.”

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.



Reflection

Two of the temptations the devil presented Jesus in the desert included turning stones into bread (for Jesus had been fasting forty days) and throwing himself off a high roof top to “prove” that he was the Son of God. Though the location is vastly different, Jesus’ reluctance to perform a miracle seems as strong here at the wedding as it was in the desert. He informs his mother rather flatly that his “hour” has not yet come.

In John Jesus’ “hour” refers to his glorification on the cross. That may seem literally years away, but the fact that John has Jesus address Mary both here and at the crucifixion (see John 19:25-27) as “Woman” shows he means us to read these together. Jesus is ready to truly begin his public ministry, a ministry which will take him to the cross. Maybe for now he wants just to relax and enjoy the wedding quietly, no fanfare. Maybe he does not want to distract attention from the newly married couple. Maybe he is not ready yet for the madness which follows the working of miracles, crowds and pushing and people always wanting more.

The mother of Jesus nudges him out of himself into action for the sake of the party's host. Running out of wine is not a life-or-death situation, but certainly a cause of embarrassment, perhaps because the family could not afford enough wine, or because they had not planned for so many guests (all those extra disciples!). Mary prompts Jesus to suspend his concerns about his future and how people will react to his deeds, so that he can focus on this one person in need right now. Mary makes this

request of Jesus not because he is the Messiah who brings salvation to the world, but because he is a compassionate person with the ability to help this situation.

Just as subtly as Mary made her case, Jesus works the miracle so that no one notices except the servants and the disciples, who find faith in a Messiah who acts in large and small ways “so that all may have life, and have it to the full.”

Questions

- Despite the problem of the host, Jesus did not want to engage the situation. What feelings or beliefs or plans prevent you from reaching out to people in need?
- Do you experience pressure to hide a part of yourself from the world, or from certain people? Does the interaction between Mary and Jesus offer you any insight into that reality?
- **Leadership Question:** Mary put Jesus on the spot, pushing him to act without making a scene. Has someone done that for you in the past? Are there situations in your life, perhaps in your small group, where you might serve as a “Mary” for someone? How do you balance between offering a firm nudge and exerting excessive pressure?

How are the groups?

Take a moment to share with one another in small groups:

- How are your groups going?
- What has been your best moment?
- Your biggest challenge?

In small groups, brainstorm solutions to your challenges. If any of your solutions seem particularly creative, or if a challenge is shared by two or more people, bring it to the large group.

You may choose to use the leadership scenarios (see explanation on page 4) at this point, or you may end with prayer and then move on into the leadership scenarios.

Closing Prayer

Spirit of the living God,
you dwell in us
to enkindle in our hearts your fire of love.
Thank you for this presence.
Continue to shape us in subtle ways,
so that we may ever more be
the face of your love in the world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who taught us love by his life,
and remains with us through his resurrection,
Amen.

Leadership Formation

Campus RENEW Leadership Scenarios

Introduction

Attached are twenty scenarios for small community leaders. These are based on the experiences of small community leaders.

The scenarios have been left purposely short in order to allow for creative interpretation.

The scenarios can be used for training in one (or more) of the following ways:

- Hold a large group discussion about each scenario.
- Divide the group into smaller groups and give each group a scenario. After allowing time for discussion, each smaller group presents the scenario and several possible solutions to the larger group.

- Divide the group into smaller groups and give each group a scenario. Each group is responsible for presenting the scenario and several solutions to the larger group by way of role-playing or a skit.
- Have volunteers choose a scenario and then lead discussions among all the leaders about possible solutions—each volunteer can lead the discussion of one scenario.
- Hold a “fishbowl” discussion about each scenario.

Directions for “fishbowl”: form an inner circle of 4-6 chairs inside the circle of everyone present; you may only speak when seated in the inner circle (aka: “fishbowl”); after speaking, you must move back to the outer circle; you may ask a question of someone else, but, must relinquish your seat in the fishbowl to that person for the answer; if you are playing the “devil's advocate” you must clearly state that you are doing so.

- A role play can be held using the “fishbowl” method. Have a group of volunteers enact the scenario in the center circle—two volunteers should serve as co-leaders for the exercise. After the role play, everyone can discuss the scenario.