

---

***In His Own Words:***  
“Jesus: The Life of the Party”  
John 2. 1-11

---

***Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:***

“On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” - Isaiah 25: 6-9

“It cost God nothing, so far as we know, to create nice things: but to convert rebellious wills cost Him crucifixion.” - C.S. Lewis

“O Lord, refresh our sensibilities. Give us this day our daily taste. Restore to us soups that spoons will not sink in, and sauces which are never the same twice. Raise up among us stews with more gravy than we have bread to blot it with, and casseroles that put starch and substance in our limp modernity. Take away our fear of fat and make us glad of the oil which ran upon Aaron’s beard. Give us pasta with a hundred fillings, and rice in a thousand variations. Above all, give us grace to live as true men – to fast till we come to a refreshed sense of what we have and then to dine gratefully on all that comes to hand. Drive far from us, O Most Bountiful, all creatures of air and darkness; cast out the demons that possess us; deliver us from the fear of calories and the bondage of nutrition; and set us free once more in our own land, where we shall serve Thee as Thou hast blessed us – with the dew of heaven, the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine. Amen.” Robert Farrar Capon, *The Supper of the Lamb: A Culinary Reflection*, 278.

***Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:***

- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passages and why it strikes them.
- What are you discovering or re-discovering about Jesus through this passage? What is the blueprint for the kingdom that is revealed here?
- John writes that this first sign of Jesus manifested his glory. What is glorious about this miracle? How does this revelation of Jesus’ glory connect with John 1: 14? Why reveal his glory in such an understated way?
- The passage from Isaiah 25 together with John 2 picture redemption as a great feast, joyful and bountiful. Is this your picture of salvation? Is this your experience of life in the kingdom?
- For all the lip service Christians give to the gospel removing shame and restoring true joy and true humanity, does it make any actual difference for you personally? How is the gospel of Christ changing your relationship to shame?
- John summarizes the passage by reporting that Jesus’ disciples believed in him after this miracle. What is the quality of your belief - stagnant, deepening, wanting to deepen?