

An Epiphany journey with Jesus to thrive in his Kingdom

Our study theme for this week was the Marriage at Cana, and it was lovely to see 13 people online, who were Nick and Sarah Jarrett-Kerr, Ian and Sonya Stocker, Avril Chadwick, Beth Ashton-Hilton, Kay Friend, Matthew Thomson, Frances Urwin, Margaret Morris (Glastonbury), Jonathan and Viv Hayward (Nempnett Thrubwell), and Gillian Durbin (Compton Martin)

Our objectives for each session are to engage in deeper conversation and prayer, and each session of the 6 focuses on how each episode in Jesus life and ministry might achieve the following points.

- **Help us to know and experience the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge and understanding.**
- **With the help of the Holy Spirit, encourage us to live our lives as apprentices and followers of Jesus**
- **Establish small steps that would lead surely and quietly to inner transformation.**

In our time together, we have and will continue to use the session structure and signpost formula introduced to us by Howard in the original Rule of Life group, namely that we check in with people that all is well with them, and that any concerns would be supported by prayer throughout. The flight time would be the study and discussion on the theme and the linked scripture, and the final landing would be a summary of the session and an ‘open mic’ prayer time. The signpost formula will be a study guide when looking at the Bible and thinking about its application for us today.

- Is there something you wish to question?
- Is there something about which you wish to comment?
- Is there something to encourage us?
- Is there something to warn us?
- Is there something to help lead us to inner transformation?

After check in time, we read John 2:1-10 and in studying this, we focused on three main questions focusing on what this passage teaches us about our Rule of Life

- The theme of Celebration. Is it important to celebrate and have fun as part of our Rule of Life?
- The theme of obedience. Mary told the servants “do whatever he tells you”. Are we ready to do the same?
- The miracle of water into wine. How are our hearts transformed and renewed by God’s grace?

The discussion around these aspects brought out a number of themes and points:-

- Sarah showed the Tintoretto painting emphasising her feelings that paintings such as this expand her soul and help her to feel emotions and thoughts which can turn into a flow of Joy – knowing we are unconditionally loved
- How lovely, memorable, intimate small weddings can be
- Gods abundant generosity, enough wine to fill a large van by today’s standards
- A miracle of everyday life – nothing is too small for Jesus

- The vineyard as the New Israel and Jesus as both the living water, and the true vine (John 15)
- As with the first two sessions, the constant theme of God's love for us which overflows and never runs out
- Mary's empathy in knowing Jesus and giving him a loving nudge to start his ministry; had Jesus noticed the lack of wine, did Mary remind him or was he waiting for her to ask?
- This first miracle turning our minds and our eyes to Jesus's journey towards the last supper (breaking bread, drinking wine) and then to the Cross and the resurrection

The session concluded with open prayer time, followed by the Lord's Prayer and the Grace, concluding just before 9.00.