

Small Group Discussion Guide – September 4, 2011

"Face2Face - Seeing Jesus Again for the First Time" ~ The Gospel of John

(Sermon notes from David Mathews)

Pendulum Swings: Pendulum swings, better known as icebreakers or getting started questions, are just a fun way to kickoff your small group time together by going from the not so serious to deeper connecting times.

As you begin your Small Group this week ... "Would you rather ...?"

- ✓ ... have your friends ask you to do something or your mother tell you to do something?
- ✓ ... eat cake at a wedding or drink the punch?
- ✓ ... teach like Jesus or live like Jesus?

"GREAT WINE"

Intro: Pray together

John's purpose in writing is clearly spelled out in John 20:30-31. There were many miraculous signs Jesus did, but the ones John includes in this book each serve to accomplish his purpose of helping our faith grow: that Jesus is the messiah, and that he is the giver of life.

Read: John 2:1-11 with John's purpose in mind.

John 2:11 states that the changing of water to wine is the first **sign** Jesus did. The word is different than the word used by Matthew, Mark, and Luke in their description of the miracles of Jesus. 'Sign' points to something else which the miracle is intended. In other words, the point of the miracle of Jesus changing water to wine is not that Jesus has the power to do this (He obviously does have the power). The key is to find what the 'sign' means; why did John include this specific sign? In what way/ways does this help him (John) accomplish his stated purpose of writing?

1. Discuss the reason(s) Jesus may have been at a wedding feast.
 - What does this show us about the person of Jesus?
2. Why did Mary, his mother, go to Jesus with the problem of the wine being gone?
 - What insight does/might this give us into their relationship?
3. Discuss the way in which Jesus responded – i.e., was he being disrespectful? – to his mother.
 - What did he mean when he stated: "My time (the hour) has not yet come?"
 - In every other passage in John, 'my time (or the hour) has not yet come' refers to the death and resurrection of Jesus (read: 7:30; 8:20; 12:23-27; 13:1; 17:1).
 - In what way(s) might this be connected to the death of Jesus?
4. Jesus evidently 'made' about 180 gallons of wine, which the master of the banquet called "the best wine." The clues mentioned this morning that might help explain why he did this are: 2:1 – "on the third day"; 2:4 – "My hour has not yet come"; 2:6 – "six water jars used for ceremonial washings"; 2: 11 – "revealed his glory".
 - Discuss the possible reasons he did this – what might this miracle signify?
5. John 2:11 states that Jesus 'revealed his glory' by doing this miracle, and that 'the disciples put their faith in him.'
 - In what ways did this reveal his glory?
 - What would cause them to put their faith in Him more?

Close out: Since faith in Jesus Christ is indeed a process, discuss w/in your small group journeys of faith – i.e., the times of doubt and the times of faith being strengthened.