



DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of January 9, 2022 (John 2:1-11)

Prayers for Groups & Personal Devotion:

Generous God,
 your love knows no bounds,
 your compassion never fails,
 your grace is freely given
 to all who would receive it.
 Thank you.

Thank you for the people
 who choose to give freely
 of their time, talents and
 money so that others may
 receive love, health,
 wholeness, justice,
 compassion and education.

Thank you for the people
 who teach us to be more like
 Jesus, who show us, through
 their daily lives, a generosity
 that is for all people.

In a world where
 consumerism is king, help us
 to turn things around
 and to focus on the we
 instead of the I.

In a world that encourages
 us to take all we can and
 give little back, help us to
 turn things around
 and to focus on sharing
 rather than taking.

In a world that demands our
 attention and time to divert

Devotions for Life A LifeGroup Resource

The Story: John 2:1-11

Context: This week’s text is one of many that show up only John’s Gospel. While we get an incarnation (“The Word became flesh”), we don’t get a birth narrative in John, so this is also the first time we meet Mother Mary in John. She only shows up twice. In today’s story and at the cross, becoming a kind of bracket around Jesus’ life. She is also not named, but merely referred to as Jesus’ mother, which some scholars believe is done to emphasize her title and that while Jesus was “begotten of the Father”, he was also born as a human with a mother, in need nourishment, protection, provision. This story is also Jesus’ first act of public ministry in John, which is always something to take note of.



us and distract us from you, help us to switch off and slow down so that we might pay more attention to you.

In a world that often neglects the vulnerable, the lonely, the bereaved, the young, the old, the poor, help us to turn the tables and actively seek out the people who need us the most.

May we learn to become generous and sacrificial with our time, our money and our talents, sharing our best with all people and giving our best each day.

Amen.

Acts of Compassion & Justice:

- This month we are collecting socks and underwear for Simpson Housing Services. As you have the means consider contributing to our efforts.
- Consider checking out homesforallmn.org and mnhomelesscoalition.org (two legislative agendas endorsed and supported by Simpson Housing Services) to see how you can get active in ending houselessness in Minnesota.
- Simpson Housing Services has a great resource on their website for numerous ways to get educated about and active in these matters. Go to: simpsonhousing.org/who-we-are/advocacy/ and get engaged!

Reading the Story: Today's story is not long, but it is powerful. As with any story, make sure you're following the action. Who is doing and saying what? Who is responding to whom and how? Since it's short, consider reading through it multiple times. What jumps out to you? What questions do you have?

Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

- If you could ask a Biblical scholar one question about this story, what would it be?
- This is one of those stories that's good to play out in your mind like a movie or a play: Reread it and try to track the action and dialogue. Does anything jump out or is there anything you didn't notice before?
- Why do you think this is the first "miracle" or "sign" for Jesus in the Gospel of John? What is the difference between a miracle and a sign? And why do you think John chooses the word sign instead of miracle?
- What function does this miracle serve?
- How does Mary function in this story? What significance, if any, is there in the interplay between Jesus and Mary? Why isn't Mary named?
- Jesus ends up making what would be the equivalent of 1,000 bottles of wine. Why so much? Why wine?
- How does wine tend to function in the scriptures? What does it often symbolize? With that in mind, how might this story connect to John 1:16?
- After 3 days of partying, why is Mary concerned that they have run out of wine?
- What can we take away from this story? How is it asking you to change? What is it calling out of you?

