

Scripture and Background Information for February 16-22

The Unanswered Questions of Jesus

The accounts of Jesus' life are filled with stories, parables, sayings, sermons, and miracles. They're also filled with questions – not just the questions people asked Jesus. They're filled with questions Jesus asked the people who were deciding whether or not to follow Him. During this series, we'll look at the questions Jesus asks, consider their relevance, and challenge ourselves to find answers to the things about us and within us that Jesus wants to know.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Since this week is longer than ten verses, write out some details that you'll need to retell the story in the **GOD'S WORDS** section. Then in the **MY WORDS** section, retell the story in your own words.

Background for John 2:1-11

John's gospel is famous for its signs. John is structured around these seven signs that all communicate who Jesus is and what he is like. This is the first sign in the book of John that does just that—it communicates that Jesus is more than just a carpenter.

According to verses 3-5, Mary, Jesus' mother, was the first to realize that He was something more. Her request reveals that she knew that Jesus did have the power to do something about the problem that they were facing. And Jesus' question reveals that He recognized that she was taking this step into further understanding of who He is and what He is like. However, at first, Jesus seems reluctant to do as she asks to continue to preserve his anonymity. However, Jesus does decide to make himself known. In fact, this was the sign that let his disciples know that he could be believed (verse 11). And it all started with a question.

**“Woman” in verse 4 is not meant to carry the pejorative or derogatory tone that it might today. It is merely meant to be a way to address her.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

February 23

John 5:2-9

February 30

Mark 4:35-41