

January 12, 2014

Lesson 14: Wedding at Cana



John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Wedding at Cana

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The Big Story Truth: God is a God of abundance. Through Jesus we are given an abundance of gifts. As John says in the beginning part of the gospel, “through his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.”

About This Scripture Passage: This is the first of Jesus’ miracles in the Gospel of John. This is the first act of Jesus’ public ministry as a whole. The passage begins with Mary, Jesus’ mother, coming to him about the problem that the wedding has run out of wine. When Jesus says that his “hour” has not yet come, he means a number of things. “Hour” in John’s gospel means more than just a term relating to time. The “hour” for something can also mean the time when something is supposed to happen, when it the fullness of time has come and it is the moment that God has prepared for a particular event. Jesus’ “hour” specifically referred to his death and resurrection. Jesus talking about his “hour” now reveals that

everything in his ministry is connected. Jesus turning water into wine now is a part of what will lead to his eventual suffering and to his glory. The water into wine miracle, though, show us something more. The steward goes to the groom assuming that this good wine has come from him. But we as readers know that the good wine comes from God. This is a story about Jesus, all of his gifts and his glory.

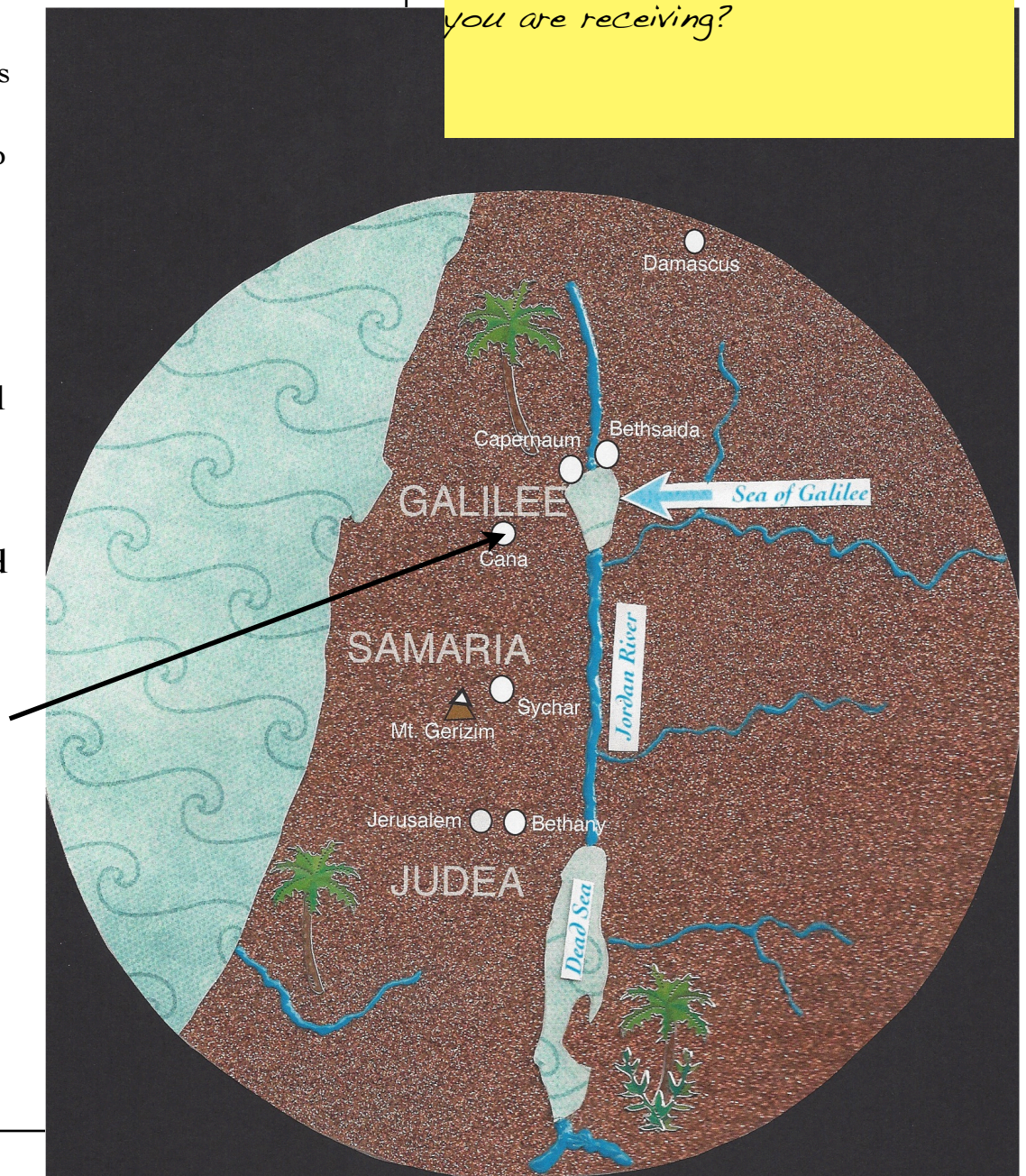


Making the Connection: Our God gives good gifts. In this first miracle of Jesus, we see the character of God. God is all about abundance. In this passage the water jars were huge... much larger than normal. The miracle has abundance written all over it- both in the amount of wine and the quality. This is how God gives to us. God gives in abundance. The gift of Jesus is a gift of abundance. Not only in this story about wine for one wedding, but in the whole of Scripture we see that what God gives us through Jesus is an abundance...

abundant life,
abundant grace. This story is an opportunity for us to help our kids experience the abundant gifts of God and to realize that God's abundance is poured out for them too!

Where in the World Are We?

The wedding where this miracle took place was in Cana.



For Your Reflection:

When have you experienced abundance? What did it look like? What was your reaction?

How is God providing for you abundantly this week? How might you respond to the abundant gifts you are receiving?

