

Miracle Man

Week 1: Turning H₂O into Hooch

Date	Miracle	“I Am” Statement
7/8	John 2:1–11: Water into Wine	John 15:1: I Am the True Vine
7/15	John 4:43–54: Healing of the Official’s Son	John 14:6: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life
7/22	John 6:1–15: Jesus Feeds the 5000+	John 6:35: I Am the Bread of Life
7/29	John 5:1–15: Healing of the Invalid at Bethesda [Sheep Gate]	John 10:7: I Am the Door of the Sheep
	John 6:16–24: Jesus Walks on Water	John 10:11: I Am the Good Shepherd
8/5	John 9:1–12: Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind	John 8:12: I Am the Light of the World
8/12	John 11:38–44: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:25: I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Objective: The participant should be able to explain that Jesus is the Messiah by discussing the connection between his miracles and teachings.

Background:

“I Am” statements: Exodus 3:14

Healings/Miracles: Isaiah 61:1–4 (cf. Luke 4:18–19)

The Gospel of John: Overview

Generally thematic, but numerous “time” elements (John 1:29, 35, 43; 2:1, 12, 13; 4:43, etc.). Different from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke); only a handful of events common to John and the Synoptic Gospels (Feeding of 5000+, clearing of the temple, Passion week). At least three Passovers celebrated (2:13, 6:4, 12:1, the latter begins the final week of Jesus’s life on earth. Ten of 21 chapters relate Jesus’s last week).

Taking a Look:

In groups of two or three, break down John 2:1–12 according to the journalism-style questions below. Take about 5 minutes to do so.

Who is mentioned in the story?

What are their roles?

Where are they?

Why are they there?

What happens?

Why did Jesus’s mother ask him to help?

When did this happen (in relation to surrounding text and within the story itself)?

How is the miracle made known?

What are the results?

Is there any purpose/reason revealed?

Break from groups and discuss the following as a class:

What are the most striking features of this miracle to you?

How do you feel about Jesus supplying more wine (the kind with alcohol) to a party where people have already had too much to drink? What does this tell you about Jesus and the culture he lived in?

What does Jesus' miracle here suggest about the way you and I should respond to the celebrations in life?

Part II: I Am the Vine

Break into your groups again and read John 15:1–17. What things stand out about this passage, especially repeated words and any thematic connections to the story of Jesus changing water into wine we read above?

The words for “prune” and “clean” in 15:2–3 are from the same root word, and both are related to the word used to describe the stone jars in John 2. How might that be significant if we consider how Jesus used wine in the Last Supper account?

Taking both the miracle story and the “I Am” passage together, how do these events reveal that Jesus is the Messiah? Refer back to the Isaiah passage we read at the beginning of the lesson if necessary.