

## Book Study #5

## JOHN

## John 2:1-11 Jesus Changes Water to Wine

### Before We Begin...check the original map...



### Let's get in gear...

- What makes an event miraculous or supernatural?
- Have you ever witnessed a supernatural or miraculous event?

a.  
b.

### Exploration...

- Where did the wedding take place? ([2:1](#))
- Who was at the wedding? ([2:1-2](#))
- What did Jesus' mother say to Him? ([2:3](#))
- \*What was Jesus' response to His mother? ([2:4](#))**
- How did Jesus' mother respond to His reply? ([2:5](#))
- What were the water jars used for? ([2:6](#))
- What did Jesus tell the servants to do? ([2:7](#))
- To whom did the servants take the water? ([2:8](#))
- What happened to the water? ([2:9](#))
- \*What was the banquet master's response? ([2:10](#))**
- \*Why did Jesus perform this miracle? ([2:11](#))**
- How did Jesus' disciples respond to this miracle? ([2:11](#))

4.  
10.  
11.

- What is something you would like Jesus to change in your life?

\*For more about miracles see the attached article on the back of this page entitled, "Miracles and the Supernatural"

13.



### Discovery and Revelation... Your thoughts and words.

- What is one specific habit or characteristic you will ask God to change in your life this week?
- How will you enjoy today the new life Jesus has given you?

14. , 15.

## Miracles and the Supernatural

**The very concept of a miracle implies a distinction between the natural and the supernatural.** For an event to be miraculous, there needs to be a suspension or interruption of the natural course of events. David Hume (*noted philosopher*) defined a miracle as:

... a transgression of a law of nature by a particular volition of the Deity, or by the interposition of some invisible agent. *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.

Clearly no natural event, however remarkable, can violate a law of nature: on the contrary, the law would have to be adjusted to allow for such an event. We must therefore understand nature as a closed system into which – in the event of a miracle – a supernatural force intervenes. Such a definition rules out those events which, however improbable or apparently meaningful, occur within natural laws.

Some philosophers have preferred to leave the laws of nature intact and define a miracle as a providential ordering of natural events. For instance, in *Acts 16:25f* Paul and Silas are in prison praying when an earthquake strikes and the prison doors fall open allowing them to escape. No doubt the earthquake arrived in answer to their prayers, but however fortuitous its occurrence, it is nevertheless a strictly natural event. What makes such events miraculous is their meaning: by this definition, a miracle is a revelation of God's intentions and its significance lies in how it is interpreted. (1)

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A **miracle** is an event attributed to divine intervention. Sometimes an event is also attributed (in part) to a miracle worker, saint, or religious leader. A miracle is sometimes thought of as a perceptible interruption of the laws of nature. Others suggest that God may work *with* the laws of nature to perform what people perceive as miracle. Theologians say that, with divine providence, God regularly works through created nature yet is free to work without, above, or against it as well. (2)

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### Supernatural acts

In one view, a miracle is a phenomenon not fully explainable by known "laws" of nature, or an act by some supernatural entity or unknown, outside force.

Many conservative religious believers hold that in the absence of a plausible, parsimonious scientific theory, the best explanation for these events is that they were performed by a supernatural being, and cite this as evidence for the existence of a god or gods. Some adherents of monotheistic religions assert that miracles, if established, are evidence for the existence of an omnipotent, omniscient, and benevolent God. (3)

(1) [Sevenoaksphilosophy.org](http://Sevenoaksphilosophy.org), Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2,3) Wikipedia, "Essential Truths of the Christian Faith," Tyndale