

Firestarter 3

Scripture: John 2:1-25

Before you read

1. Gather a pen, paper, and highlighters (for marking in your Bible) if you don't want to mark your Bible. Print off this sheet and mark it here.
2. Pray, asking God for wisdom and understanding of the word you are about to read.
3. Read the section more than one time.
 - First, read to understand
 - Second, read to notice
 - Third, read for questions (Choose 3 questions from the observation section to find the answers)
 - Fourth, mark all the words that refer to **Jesus' actions** (mark the verbs).

READ: John 2:1-25

OBSERVATION:

What is important about Jesus doing a miracle at a wedding? How do miracles increase belief?

Why did Jesus obey his mother? What effect do you think his obedience had on the miracle?

Why was Jesus justifiably angry at those doing business in the temple area?

What does this reveal about Jesus' passions and priorities?

In what way is Jesus' body "the temple"?

What does it mean that Jesus "didn't trust them" who believed His miracles?

APPLICATION:

The Bible is completely true and trustworthy, yet not everything in it is easy to take. The Word contains many tough challenges. But some Biblical accounts are difficult to deal with because they seem out of character. Perhaps they don't fit our perceptions of God. Some things are black and white—right or wrong. Others seem to be shades of gray—open to personal interpretation and potential misunderstanding. This passage hits on two unique issues—anger and alcohol. Jesus expresses unbridled anger—for justifiable reasons, and he performs his first miracle. Turning water into wine for a wedding seems like a less-than-urgent need, but it also raises speculation about whether the wine was intoxicating. Whether we understand everything in the Bible or not, God's Word is always consistent with His character and purposes. He will help us understand and relate His word to our lives as we sincerely aim to honor Him.

Do you believe the Bible, whether you agree with it or not? What assures you that the Bible is true?

Action Step: The issue of alcoholic beverages presents significant problems in many cultures. God frequently addresses the issues of drinking and drunkenness in His Word. Many people use the Bible's references to wine to justify their views on drinking alcohol. Since there is much debate and speculation among Christians regarding what the Bible says about wine and drinking, take time to consider the opinions, facts, and information presented in the articles on "Wine in New Testament Times," p. 1449, and "Wine in the Old Testament," p. 832.

PRAY:

Ask God to give you a passion for times of worship and prayer. Ask Jesus to help you develop a deeper faith in Him, the kind of Faith He trusts.