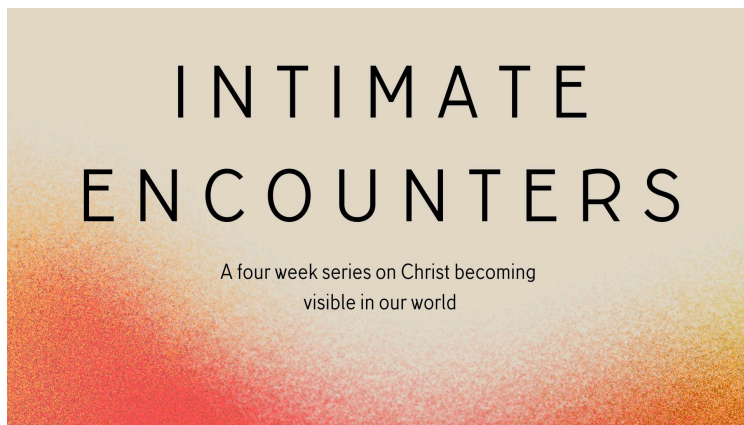


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for January 19, 2025
Intimate Encounters: Signs



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with a CGS Community or family

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT**

- Have you ever experienced a moment that seemed ordinary at first but later felt significant or meaningful? What made it stand out to you?

- **GROW**

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him,

"They have no more wine."

4 "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2:1-11

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- What was the significance of weddings in Jewish culture during Jesus' time, and why might running out of wine have been such a big deal?
- Who was present at this event, and how does that help us understand the context of Jesus' first miracle?
- How does John use the concept of "signs" throughout his Gospel to point to who Jesus is?
- What does Mary's interaction with Jesus in verses 3-5 reveal about her faith and understanding of His identity?
- Why do you think Jesus chose this moment to perform His first miracle, and what might it

signify about His mission?

- o How do the stone water jars, typically used for ceremonial washing, add meaning to this sign?
- o Why is the quality of the wine important in this story? What does it reveal about the nature of Jesus' miracles?
- o How did this miracle affect the disciples who witnessed it, according to verse 11?
- o What do you think this story teaches us about God's ability to transform ordinary situations into extraordinary ones?

- **SERVE** *others*

- What are some "ordinary moments" in your life where you've seen or could see signs of God's presence or activity? How might reflecting on these moments deepen your faith?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**