



THE SIGN OF HIS GRACE

BIG IDEA: Jesus works on behalf of all who come to Him.

DATE: Sunday, January 18 and Wednesday, January 21, 2026

SCRIPTURE: John 4:46-54

OPENING QUESTION

In what situations are you most likely to ask for help? Why? *In what situations do you avoid asking for help? Why?*

SETTING THE STAGE

Jesus's second miracle at Cana is not as well-known as his first. Much, though, happened between the two. Jesus went to Capernaum, then to Jerusalem for Passover. He was keeping the tradition established in His youth. This trip was different, though. This year Jesus overturned the money changers' tables. He also had a conversation one night with a seeker named Nicodemus. Leaving Jerusalem and the territory of Judea, Jesus traveled north to the region of one of John the Baptist's baptismal sites, Aenon near Salim, which was in the Judean countryside. He also encountered a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well near Sychar. Jesus continued north and received an enthusiastic welcome when he reached Galilee. Once there, he returned to Cana.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:46-54 (CSB)

He went again to Cana of Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a certain royal official whose son was ill at Capernaum. ⁴⁷When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to him and pleaded with him to come down and heal his son, since he was about to die.

⁴⁸Jesus told him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." ⁴⁹"Sir," the official said to him, "come down before my boy dies." ⁵⁰"Go," Jesus told him, "your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and departed.

⁵¹While he was still going down, his servants met him saying that his boy was alive. ⁵²He asked them at what time he got better. "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him," they answered. ⁵³The father realized this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." So he himself believed, along with his whole household. ⁵⁴Now this was also the second sign Jesus performed after he came from Judea to Galilee.

DISCUSSION

READ: JOHN 4:46-47

- Have you ever *pleaded* to God for a deep need? What was that like?
- What is it about Jesus that motivates you to take your needs to Him?

READ: JOHN 4:48-50

- How might our lives be different if we took Jesus at His word? What's the difference between believing *in* God and *believing* God?
- Is it hard for you to take people at their word? Why or why not?

READ: JOHN 4:51-54

- This miracle shows us the grace of God. Grace has been defined as "God's riches at Christ's expense." Let's consider God's grace in our life. What are some of the "riches" you have been given in your life?
- When have you seen God work in a way that demonstrated His power and grace aren't limited by time? Share with your group.
- What are some lessons we can learn from the second sign from Jesus?

RESPONSE

Write down how your faith is similar or different from the royal servant's faith and how it has experienced transformation. Identify steps you can take that will help you grow in your walk with God. Take a moment to share with someone how you have seen your faith grow in both answered and unanswered prayer. Be sure to ask the person about his or her own faith journey, too.

READING PLAN

WEEK 3: 1/18-Genesis 21; 1/19-Genesis 22; 1/20-Genesis 23; 1/21-Genesis 24; 1/22-Genesis 25; 1/23-Hebrews 11; 1/24-Hebrews 12