

THE GOSPEL

according to John

'Written so that you may believe'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Gospel with a friend or with a group

3^d Session **THEME: What believers perceive in Jesus**

1. Icebreaker & prayer 10 minutes to get started

- Think of a problem currently going on in your life. You would be happy when the Lord would provide a solution. Of which problem are you thinking? Share briefly.

2. Read: John 2:1-12 10 – 15 minutes to answer these questions

Structure of this passage:

- Vs. 1-10: Description of what Jesus did at Cana
- Vs. 11: Interpretation of what Jesus did and response of disciples

Jesus saves the wedding. The true wedding Jesus is concerned about, is the wedding between the Lord and his people. With Moses the people had been called to become the Lord's people. But they had become 'impure' – and always, again and again, in the Old Testament they had been told to purify themselves from worshipping other objects or persons instead of their own Lord.

- Read Chapter 1:16. How does this verse give insight into the meaning of this passage?

3. Read: John 2:13-25 10 – 15 minutes to answer these questions

Structure of this passage:

- Vs. 12-17: Description of what Jesus did at Jerusalem
- Vs. 18-25: Interpretation, by Jesus and response of Jewish leaders, disciples and multitude

Whereas the water jars had to be filled, the temple had to be emptied. The destination of the temple was that the Lord's people might meet their Lord there, worship him and enjoy communion with him. Jesus exposes the abuse of the temple by religious trade and announces a new temple – he himself is that temple. In and through him, in the future people will meet God, worship him and enjoy communion with him.

- What can we learn from the (later) response of the disciples (vs. 22)?
- Compare the faith described in verses 11 and 22 with the faith described in verses 23-25. What was the problem with the latter?

4. Look again at: John 2 10 – 15 minutes for the last question

Jesus revealed himself as the true Bridegroom for his people, the one who comes to purify and forgive, to save the wedding, to give eternal life. Even though your problem might not change, this makes a huge difference for everyone who truly believes in him. Meditate a few minutes on this. Share your thoughts.

5. End with prayer

Digging deeper (information to read before or after the meeting)

Isaiah 25:6-7 speaks of two things the Lord will do: organise the ultimate wedding & conquer death. Chapters 2-4:45 (first sign) elaborate on the first, chapters 4:46 (second sign)-11 on the latter.

Teaser for the next meeting:

Next time (Chapter 3) we look at 3 teachers. You may read the chapter in advance.