



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 5
January 28th & 29th, 2012

Ice Breaker:

What was the last wedding you attended and what did you enjoy most about it?

Opening Prayer:

Father God, help us to be open to how we can play a part of creating a “church for the rest of us.”

For Discussion:

Read John 2:1-11

Pastor James used this passage to teach us what a “church for the rest of us” is all about:

In a “church for the rest of us” we prepare for our guests.

At the wedding in Cana, the hosts were not fully prepared for their guests. This oversight would have created a very embarrassing situation then, just as it would in modern times.

- List some of the ways EastLake Church prepares for our guests.
- When did you first hear about EastLake and when did you first start coming?

In a “church for the rest of us” we are available to solve problems

Mary knew Jesus had the capacity to solve any problem and didn’t hesitate to bring this one to him. At EastLake Church we point people to a relationship with Jesus, who heals us from the inside out. We are also aware and available to jump in and get our hands dirty solving the problems of social justice in our world: feeding and housing orphans in Uganda, providing clean water in sub-Saharan Africa, providing safe shelter and job training for victims of human trafficking in our community, and more.

- Have you gotten involved in addressing any social justice issues through EastLake Church or in our local community? If so, tell us a little bit about your experience.

In a “church for the rest of us” no one is overqualified or under qualified to serve.

Jesus was overqualified to be responsible to serve wine at this wedding, or to wash the disciples feet, or to feed hungry people, or to touch lepers, yet this is exactly what he chose to do with his life. Jesus came to serve.

- If you are currently serving in a ministry at EastLake Church, share a little bit about it.
- If you are not currently serving, what ministry opportunity would you be willing to explore?

In a “church for the rest of us” obedience honors God and inspires people.

This miracle was not accomplished without the participation of the servants. They filled the jars with water and took a step of faith to draw water and serve it to the wedding hosts. Only then did the miracle occur.

- Is there a step of obedience God has been calling you toward, but you have been hesitating to fulfill?
- What is holding you back?

In a “church for the rest of us” everyone enjoys the final product, but only the servants see the transformation process.

All the guests at this wedding enjoyed the water that had been turned into wine, but only the servants saw the miracle and knew the source. When we make ourselves available to serve, we stay connected to the Source.

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, I want to follow your example and become a servant. Show me where and how you want me to serve.

