

WEEK 2

# Jesus Miraculously Provides

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John 2:1-11, 6:1-15



## JOHN 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup>On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus's mother was there, <sup>2</sup>and Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well. <sup>3</sup>When the wine ran out, Jesus's mother told him, "They don't have any wine." <sup>4</sup>"What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>"Do whatever he tells you," his mother told the servants. <sup>6</sup>Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>"Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. So they filled

them to the brim. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." And they did. <sup>9</sup>When the headwaiter tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom <sup>10</sup>and told him, "Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people are drunk, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

## JOHN 6:1-15

<sup>1</sup>After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). <sup>2</sup>A huge crowd was following him because they saw the signs that he was performing by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near. <sup>5</sup>So when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where will we buy bread so that these people can eat?" <sup>6</sup>He asked this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn't be enough for each of them to have a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus

said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place; so they sat down. The men numbered about five thousand. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks he distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were full, he told his disciples, "Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted." <sup>13</sup>So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This truly is the Prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup>Therefore, when Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

# SERMON NOTES

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### TEACHING SUMMARY

Jesus provides in small ways and large ways—from a luxury item at a wedding to food when there is none. He provides for you too, all according to His riches in glory. The boy who gave his food to Jesus participated with Jesus in a miracle.

As we give, we are able to participate with Jesus too.

### LEAN IN

What is the most elaborate wedding you have ever attended or seen? What impressed you the most about the wedding ceremony or reception?

### LOOK DOWN

#### **READ JOHN 2:1-11 (pg. 28)**

Why was the master of the banquet so surprised at the quality of the wine that Jesus miraculously produced from water? How did serving such wine run counter to what was traditionally done?

What does verse 11 say was the end result of this miracle?

#### **READ JOHN 6:1-15 (pg. 28)**

Why was the crowd following Jesus (v. 2)? Do you think they were looking for spiritual guidance or just personal benefit? What was your motivation when you first came to Christ?

Why did Jesus ask Philip how they could feed all of the people, if He already knew how He was going to feed them?

How much did the boy provide and how much was left over?  
What point was Jesus trying to make by performing this miracle?

## LOOK OUT

What are the primary things that the world is trying to provide us with? How do these things compare and contrast with the good news of Jesus?

How can we bring “the better wine” to situations in which we are placed, so that we may point others to Jesus?

## LOOK IN

When do you remember God providing for you when you were worried you wouldn’t have enough for your needs?

What does Jesus’ meeting of these needs teach us about Jesus’ concern for our needs and His ability to meet them?

How have you seen God’s glory in a way that has led you to trust Jesus more deeply than you did a year ago?

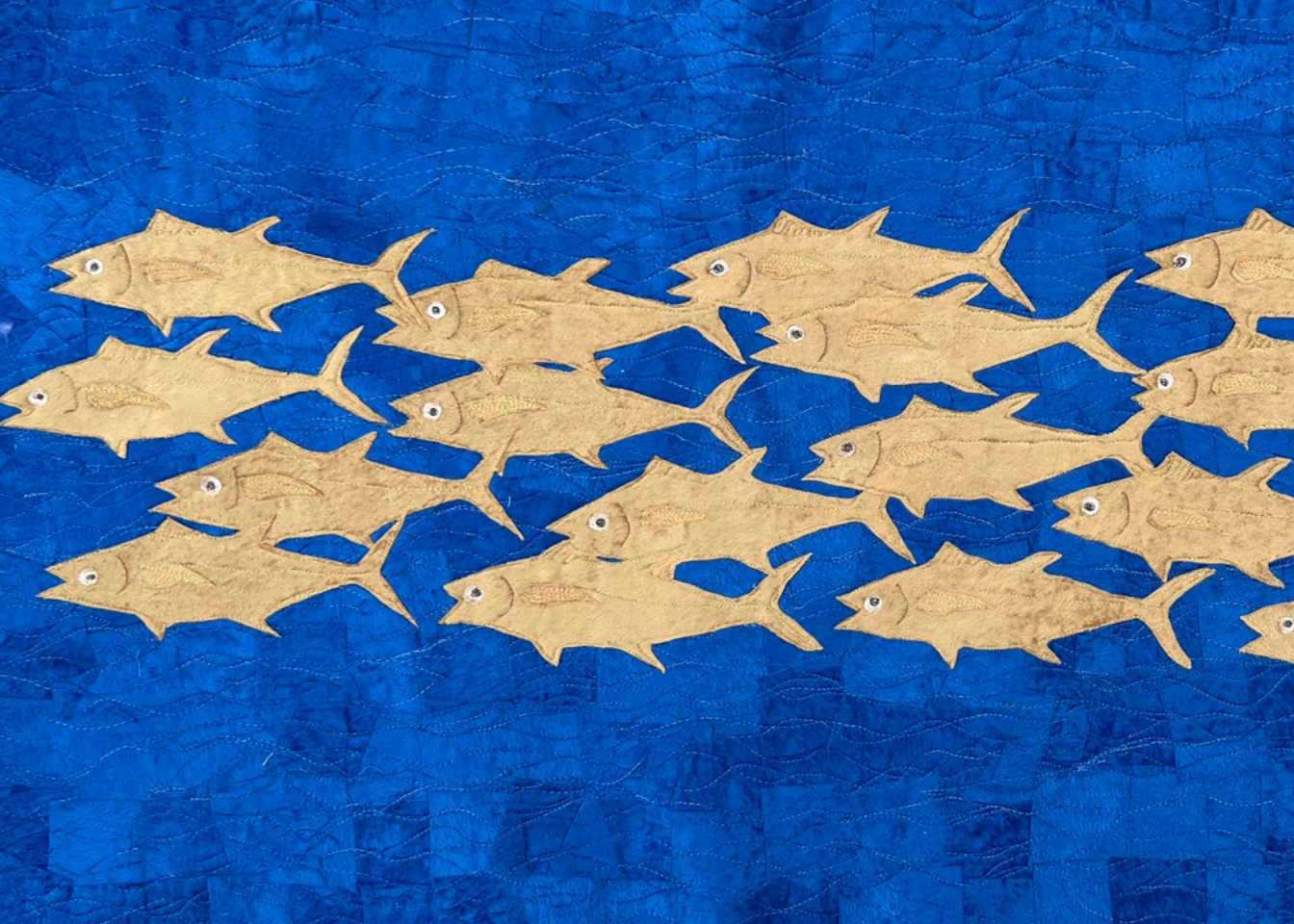
## RHYTHM REMINDER



worship



prayer



# I Have...

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*written by: Darlene Welling*

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**HAVE YOU EVER DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING THAT WAS POSITIVE, BUT THE TIMING MIGHT NOT BE RIGHT?** I have. In March 2022, my husband, Richard, and I were set to look for a house to purchase. It was a sellers' market. House prices were rapidly increasing and many houses had multiple offers that were thousands of dollars over asking price. Interest rates were on the rise.



“Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you your  
heart’s desires.

***COMMIT YOUR WAY TO  
THE LORD;  
TRUST IN HIM, AND HE  
WILL ACT.”***

PSALMS 37:4-5

*Fishes & Loaves*

by Susie Sprinkel Hudson

**HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE CHOICE TO BE FEARFUL AND THINK NEGATIVELY OR HAVE FAITH AND TRUST GOD AT HIS WORD?** I thought, “Oh my goodness! Out of all the times to decide to buy a house, this is the worst.” But, my husband and I said, “God owns everything! The Earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof. He is not limited or subject to the world’s economy or whatever is happening in this world. He makes a way where there is no way. He is the Oasis in the desert. All things are possible with God. All things are possible to those who believe. We walk by faith and not by sight, and we are blessed and highly favored with our Father. This is a great opportunity to see God do His miraculous work!” We sealed it in prayer in Jesus’ mighty name!

**HAVE YOU EVER ASKED, “WHAT DO I DO NOW?”** When we asked God, “What do we do now?” We looked at what was in our hands and decided to do what we knew to do. We continually thanked God in advance for the house He had for us and did our due diligence. We looked in areas we wanted to live and outside of the areas to be open for any direction God may be leading us to live in. We wanted to be where God wanted us to be and not live according to our own plans.



**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING WAS WHAT YOU PRAYED FOR, ONLY TO FIND OUT IT WASN'T?** We put offers on a few homes, and there were multiple offers, but none of ours were chosen. It was frustrating and we were disappointed, but we said, "God has something better for us. He owns everything! Nothing can stop what God has for us. We are blessed and highly favored with God. In Jesus' name!" Keeping our attention on God and reminding ourselves of His Word gave Richard and I continued hope, stability, and comfort through the process.



**HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN A LEAP OF FAITH THAT TURNED OUT TO BE WORTH TRYING?** In August 2022, we found the house that we wanted. We wanted a turn-key house, but this one needed new flooring, painting, and some reasonable updating. It had so many other things we wanted in a house, plus views, and it was in a prime location. We wanted to make an offer. But what amount?

Our realtor recommended that we ask well below the asking price. To us, her suggestion was unheard of. It might have needed some updating, but in these times where sellers are getting what they wanted and much more with multiple offers, it was very risky. We really wanted this house and questioned if we should offer an amount for less. We prayed about it and felt led to offer the realtor's recommended price. We took a leap of faith and trusted God, instead of succumbing to the fear of multiple offers and looking ridiculous for such an offer if we were not chosen.

**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT, AFTER THE FACT, "WHAT DID I JUST DO?"** Once the offer was submitted, anxiety and fear were knocking at the door of my mind. I started to feel stressed. But glory to God it was quickly countered with the assurance and trust I have in God and His Word. I prayed and took authority over the enemy in the name of Jesus. At times, fear and negativity would knock at the door and try to bully its way through in very subtle ways, but I resisted it with God's Word. I would speak and pray what God's Word says about it. His Word was my comfort and final authority!

My husband, on the other hand, did not have the “What did I just do?” moment like I did. We were together and in agreement in prayer—uplifting, understanding, and encouraging one another.

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SO THANKFUL THAT YOU CHOSE TO TRUST GOD NO MATTER WHAT?** We are so thankful we trusted God at His Word and leading. We found favor with the seller. At first, our offer was accepted at a price far below the asking price. Our realtor was an amazing negotiator and understood people very well. And we continued to trust God. He was with us throughout the whole buying process. Escrow closed in a few weeks. We also had a bonus to our blessing by having a good amount of equity in the house quickly. That’s our God! He goes above and beyond what we ask for! He made a way! God blessed us to be a blessing! Now, we pray our new home blesses others and our story will encourage people for His glory. ●



Provision

by Martha Caputo



# Met in the Mystery

written by: Lexi Ragan

A man, with status,  
miles from home,  
having heard  
the Healer had returned.

A son, young,  
barely alive  
counting down  
his breaths 'til death.

A Savior, sacred,  
misunderstood as a showman,  
seeking belief  
that dwelled deeper  
than demonstrations.

"Unless you see signs and wonders  
you will not believe!"

But no ceasing, still pleading  
*come down sir, I need you*  
genuine wrestle  
dying child  
faraway father  
last-gasp soul

caught in between  
losing time & life  
—no alternative but Jesus.

A shift, in a Word,  
divinely credible,  
extended with power,  
wrapped with medicine,  
worthy of enacting a fate change  
instant and exact,  
moving outside time & space...  
faith that sparked a miracle  
faster than the speed of light.

A journey, overnight,  
back to Capernaum with a heart on fire,  
weary feet floating on the promise  
of five words, carrying His command  
like a lifeline in the waiting,  
miles felt like minutes  
in the thick of *Because He said so, "Go" →*

A message, halfway home,  
that went ahead, as potent as a tangible touch,  
confirming news illness had reversed  
that afternoon when  
"Your son will live" left His holy lips—  
the same moment ears opened  
and spirit received, the real sign starting at believing.

*The one who took His word for it.  
A man that knew he was in the midst of God.*



# The Miracle of Community

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*written by: Carly Owens*

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2022 was supposed to be my year. I was going to graduate with my MBA after three years of school and working full time. The world would be my oyster, with limitless possibilities in front of me—both personally and professionally.

But then, everything changed.

During the final required course, we were playing a “fun game” at the end of a long day, and in a freak accident, my right foot was severely injured. I could not put any weight on it whatsoever, so I went to the hospital to get it checked and was diagnosed with a toe fracture—I was left with crutches.

My classmates and I laughed it off, thinking I would be off crutches by graduation two weeks later and this would be one of those funny stories we would tell one day. Unfortunately, the original diagnosis of my injury was not the whole story. I later found out the toe fracture was one of three fractures, compounded with a high-grade sprain. In a moment, I had lost my ability to walk, drive, and do simple things to take care of myself, like laundry.

Initially, I was told I would only be off my foot for about eight weeks. But the weeks went by, and I was not getting any better. I still could not put weight on my foot without significant pain, and even simply wearing the walking boot designed to protect my foot caused discomfort.

About seven weeks into my injury, after a specialist referral, I was told I likely had complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS), a nerve disorder that can happen with my kind of injury if the nerves do not heal properly. A couple of weeks later, after no improvement, it became a confirmed diagnosis. My heart sank as my imagined timeline of recovery evaporated.

I used to joke I was “independent to a fault,” but as the injury dragged on, I began to realize my joke covered a deep-seated truth which had become a cornerstone of my identity. The thought of having to find rides to physical therapy for the initial six weeks of appointments was just as daunting as the therapy itself—and at that point, I could not even wiggle my toes, so that is saying something.

Thus began my journey of learning how to ask for help.

### **FROM NEIGHBORHOOD TO CONGREGATION**

I have been a part of Mariners Mission Viejo since its beginning when it was a Mariners in the Neighborhood location. When the leadership began describing the journey of our close-knit community becoming a new congregation, I immediately thought, “Whoa, whoa—that is not what I signed up for.”

But I felt the Holy Spirit nudge me: “What if you are supposed to stay here?”

I could not shake the feeling I was supposed

to be part of this community. So, after an abundance of prayer, I finally relented and committed to stay at Mariners Mission Viejo. While my commitment was sincere—I love feeling needed and discovering new ways to help (two things that are easy to find at a church plant)—it took about a year for me to feel vulnerable enough to be receptive to receiving what the community had for me, instead of just giving.

### **CHILDLIKE FAITH IN ACTION**

This shift started in the Mariners Kids Ministry. This was the one thing I could constantly look forward to; once I made it through the week, I could hang out with the coolest kids around. Serving has always brought me an immeasurable amount of joy, but in this season, it became crucial to my survival.

The kids would ask about my foot injury every once in a while (or even ask if they could play with my crutches), but they always seemed to forget about it and treat me the same way. They were more interested in discussing Marvel movies and summer plans than doctor appointments or other updates. Every Sunday, I felt somewhat “normal” for a few hours.

I felt more like myself serving in Mariners Kids than I did anywhere else during this season.

Plus, kids have a way of speaking profound truths without realizing it. I was in the “teacher” role, but I found these kids taught me more than they will ever know. While building with magnet tiles or coloring a picture and discussing the day’s story, they would make some sort of biblical connection or state a truth that I needed to hear.

There is a reason Jesus talked about the need for faith like a child. In a period where it was easy to let my faith slip, the kids I volunteered with helped me keep it intact, without even knowing it.

### **15-MINUTE MIRACLES**

In addition to the Mariners Kids Ministry sustaining me, my entire church community rallied around me. The first Sunday I showed up at Mariners Mission Viejo with crutches and a walking boot, many people said, “I will pray for you,” and “Let us know if you need anything.” I appreciated the sentiments, but I had zero plans of taking anyone up on their offers to help. After all, being willing to jump in to support people was one of my specialties—I was the helper, not the helpee.

Then the doctor appointments started, and I could not drive myself. I felt utterly helpless.

Enter my community.

As the appointments stacked up, so did the number of people who gave me rides. Often, when I tried to think of someone to ask, the Holy Spirit brought someone to mind, and they usually had a word I needed to hear.

These rides became so much more than just a way to get from point A to point B. In sweet 15-minute increments, these rides gave me the opportunity to connect, laugh, and share my recovery struggles with people, all while hearing more about their lives. It became not only a physical lifeline for me as the weeks went on, but an emotional one too. Proverbs 17:22 says, “A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” These people truly were the joyful hearts keeping me going.

### **MY EMOTIONAL LIFELINE**

My doctor told me attitude plays a huge role in CRPS recovery and commended me on how I always seemed upbeat and positive. As I reflected on this, it hit me that not only was this due to my faith, but it was also because God gave me a tangible example of how He would always provide for me. He showed me this in the form of friends with vehicles who always had an encouraging word to share.

If I had been driving myself to those appointments, I would not have had those conversations that often became the highlight of my week. Who would have thought losing my ability to drive could bring about something so positive?

It was much more than just the miracle of car rides. From random texts, to people checking to see if I needed anything, to being reminded every Sunday others were praying for me, there is simply no way I would have been able to maintain an upbeat attitude without the help of this wonderful, close-knit community I was initially terrified of joining.

What I was most afraid of has become what I cherish the most.

### **MAKING PEACE WITH AN UNKNOWN ENDING**

As I write this, I am six months into this awful disorder and still not able to drive or put weight on my foot. But I have not missed a single appointment or gone a day without some reminder of the community who is cheering me through this recovery. Talk about miraculous.

While I do not know how this story will end, or when and if I will regain full independence, there is one thing I know: I do not want to be independent to a fault anymore.



This season has shown me asking for help is hard, but living without community is even harder. God has used His community to provide for me in countless ways over this season, and I am profoundly grateful.

On a recent Sunday, someone told me, "We need to throw a party when you get your boot off," and I think we just might. ●



# Mariners Santa Ana

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR  
IN DOWNTOWN SANTA ANA





*God's Miraculous Work in Our Cities*  
by Bill Lee