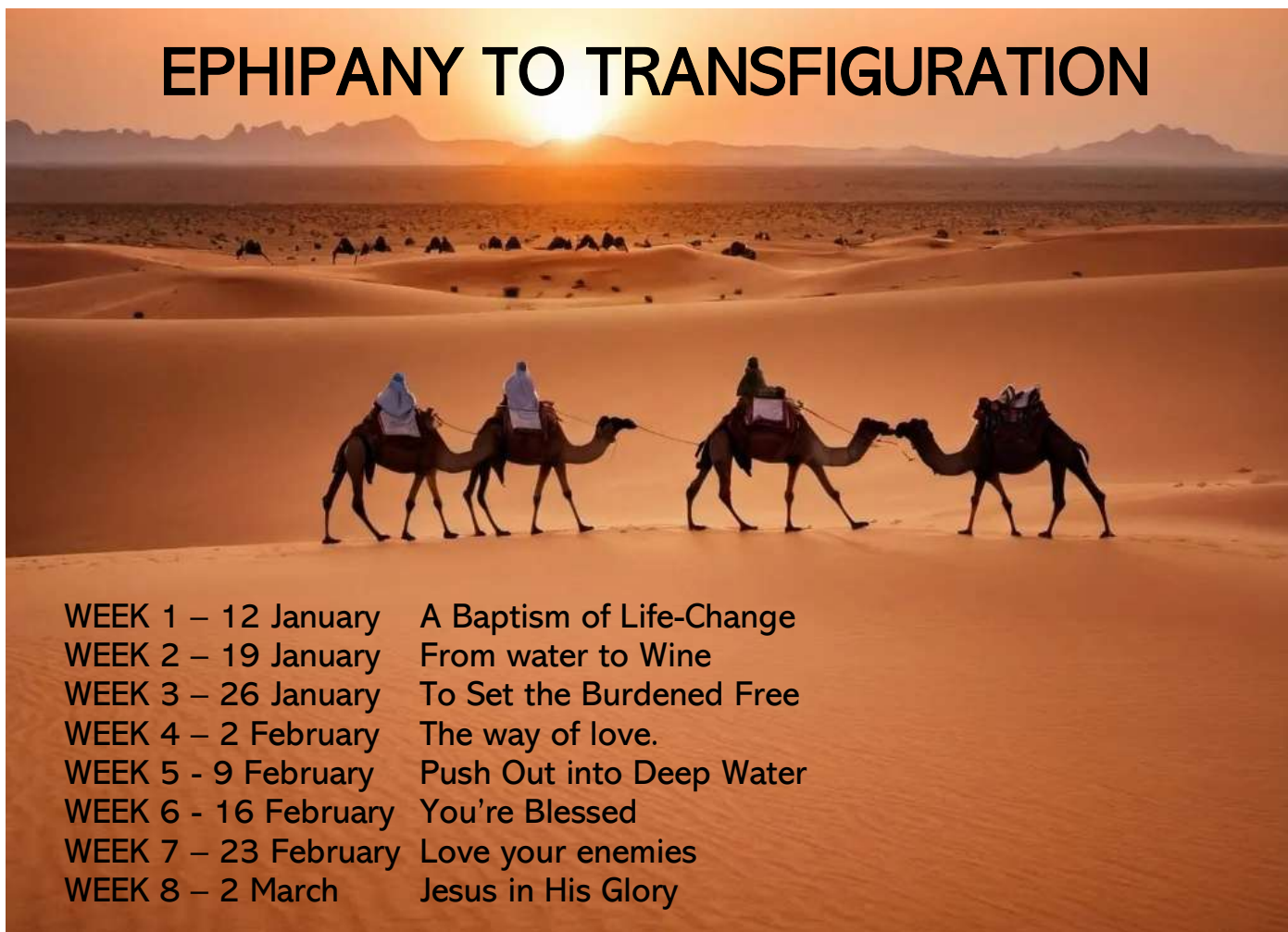
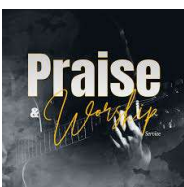


EPHIPANY TO TRANSFIGURATION



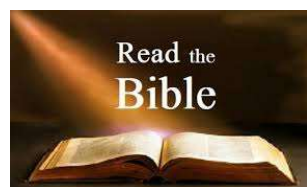
WEEK 1 – 12 January	A Baptism of Life-Change
WEEK 2 – 19 January	From water to Wine
WEEK 3 – 26 January	To Set the Burdened Free
WEEK 4 – 2 February	The way of love.
WEEK 5 - 9 February	Push Out into Deep Water
WEEK 6 - 16 February	You're Blessed
WEEK 7 – 23 February	Love your enemies
WEEK 8 – 2 March	Jesus in His Glory

We welcome you joining us on the Liturgical journey from Epiphany to Transfiguration Sunday. This material reflects the Sunday sermons ensuring the whole church are on the same page and can take the learnings deeper with scripture readings, daily devotions and questions for group discussions. May you draw closer to God whilst learning His truths, find the journey transformative and experience God's love for you in a very deep and real way.



Hymn: Jesus, I will trust you. youtu.be/sm5kx4-zRlk

WEEK 2 19 JANUARY - From Water to Wine



Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

John 2:1-11 The Message

From Water to Wine

2¹⁻³ Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine."⁴ Jesus said, "Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me."⁵ She went ahead anyway, telling the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it."⁶⁻⁷ Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim.⁸ "Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host," Jesus said, and they did.⁹⁻¹⁰ When the host tasted the water that had become wine

(he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!" ¹¹ This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him.



Monday, January 20: Psalm 145; Isaiah 54:1-8; Romans 12:9-21;

Tuesday, January 21: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-17;

Wednesday, January 22, 2025: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1; Luke 5:33-39;

Thursday, January 23: Psalm 19; Isaiah 61:1-7; Romans 7:1-6;

Friday, January 24: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 2:1-10; Romans 12:1-8;

Saturday, January 25: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 5:1-13; Luke 2:39-52;



This week was written by:
TONY MATTHEE (Local Preacher)

Weddings in the time of Jesus were not just a one-day affair; they lasted many days, even up to a week. For the bridegroom to run out of wine was a disaster of epic proportions. The couple would be the gossip of the town for years to come. Everyone would give their perceived reasons for this happening, but the young couple would have to live with the embarrassment. The NIV version of the story clearly states that the wine ran out. That's when Mary saw the situation and knew that Jesus could help. She must have seen Jesus do spectacular things before this and knew his capability.

Are we perhaps in a similar situation in our lives today – our wine has run out? It may be a financial collapse, a failed marriage or relationship, our health is shot, the bills are piling up. We have come to the end of the rope. We have been relying on ourselves, our abilities and talents, but we cannot keep going. Mary knew that at end of the rope there is hope and that is Jesus. He is a man of great compassion. If he knows how many hairs there are on your head and he knows when a sparrow falls to the ground, will he not also know our predicament (Matt. 10: 29). Things will happen in our lives when we turn to Jesus.

Jesus then turns his attention to the stone jars that are used for ceremonial cleansing. Six of them stand there, empty. Jesus says to the servants, "Fill them to the brim with water." According to the Scriptures, that is 180 gallons (684 litres) of water. As William Barclay points out, "No wedding party on earth could drink 180 gallons of Jesus' wine." 180 gallons is equivalent to 2 400 glasses I am told. So why did Jesus fill them to the brim? One reason may be that Jesus really loves us and does not do things in half measure. Our cup will overflow (Psa. 23). God's love is so great "that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God." (Eph. 3: 19).

Notice that Jesus does not touch the jars, or fill the jars with water, or perform some ceremony over the filled jars. As far as the servants were concerned, the jars were filled with water, and they were taking water to the master of the banquet. They were obedient to the nth degree. Nothing of what they were doing made any sense. Many things that Jesus says we must do seem to make no sense, like turning the other cheek or loving our enemies. How obedient are we? Jesus knows us intimately. He created us to live a certain way. Is it wise to be disobedient?

Lastly, this was the first miracle that Jesus had performed. He had just called his first disciples. Five or six of them may have been present, but certainly not 12. They knew very little about Jesus. At the end of his Gospel, John tells us that "Jesus did many other things as well." (John 21: 25). Why then did John tell us of this miracle? The answer is given in verse 11: "He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him." John does not tell us that the servants put their faith in Jesus. When Jesus performed miracles like this, some put their faith in him and others did not. Do we believe that Jesus can still do miracles today?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever witnessed an embarrassing event at a wedding? Please tell your story. Can you appreciate the situation at this wedding.
2. Some people say that God has given us a mind and intellect that we can use to deal with our problems – we don't have to turn to Jesus. Would you agree? Give reasons.
3. Why do you think Jesus told the servants to fill the jars to the brim?
4. Should we always just have blind faith in the things Jesus tells us to do in the Bible?
5. An alcoholic was once asked if he believed that Jesus turned water into wine. He said that when he became a Christian, Jesus turned "Whiskey into furniture." What does this miracle mean to you?



FAMILY TIME:

Written by Jenny Blake
CHILDREN'S PASTOR
jennyb@bmc.org.za

Week 2 - From Water to Wine

Scripture: John 2:1-11

Key Verse: *"This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him."* (John 2:11)

Introduction

Have you ever been at a party when something ran out—maybe snacks or juice or worse the birthday cake! It can feel disappointing. In today's story, Jesus shows us that He can take something small and ordinary and make it extraordinary, just like He does with our lives.

Bible Story Recap

Jesus and His disciples were at a wedding in Cana, and the hosts ran out of wine. This was a big deal in their culture—it might have embarrassed the family. Jesus' mother, Mary, noticed and asked Him to help. Although it wasn't His time to reveal Himself yet, Jesus listened to her.

Jesus told the servants to fill six large jars with water. Then He performed a miracle—the water turned into the best wine anyone had tasted! This wasn't just a kind act; it was a sign of Jesus' power and the joy He brings to those who trust Him.

Family Discussion

1. **Why do you think Jesus chose a wedding for His first miracle?**
Weddings are joyful occasions, and Jesus wanted to show that He brings joy into our lives too.
2. **What does this miracle teach us about Jesus?**
It shows His power to transform the ordinary into something extraordinary, just like He transforms our hearts when we follow Him.
3. **How can we bring joy to others this week?**
Share one idea as a family, like helping a neighbour or surprising a friend with a kind note.

Activity: Transformation in Action

Take two glasses of water. In one, add a drop of food colouring to represent how Jesus changes things for the better. As you watch the colour mix, talk about how Jesus makes our lives brighter and more joyful.

Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us Your power and love through this miracle. Help us trust You to work in our lives, making us more like You. Teach us how to bring joy and kindness to others. Amen."