

Sermon Series: Life in His Name
Sermon Title: The First Sign of Life
Text: John 2:1-12

Discussion Questions:

I want us to think today about signs. Take a few minutes to brainstorm as many different ways you can think of that the word “sign” is used in our culture.

- *I have to imagine somebody mentioned street signs.*
- *Did anyone talk about signing your name?*
- *How about the signs a catcher uses to communicate to a pitcher?*
- *Or signing for the deaf?*
- *Have you ever heard the phrase: “Sign of the times”?*
- *Do you ever think of certain gestures as signs?*

The primary definition of “sign” is: ***an object, quality, or event whose presence or occurrence indicates the probable presence or occurrence of something else.***

- Break this down a little.
 - o What are some examples of an object that indicates the probable presence or occurrence of something else.
 - o What are some examples of a quality that indicates the probable presence or occurrence of something else.
 - o What are some examples of an event that indicates the probable presence or occurrence of something else.

The word “sign” appears 189 times in the New International Version of the Bible. Discuss a few of these instances - giving particular attention to what the “sign” is, and what it means:

- *And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as **signs** to mark sacred times, and days and years.” (Gen 1:14)*
- *And God said, “This is the **sign** of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the **sign** of the covenant between me and the earth.” (Genesis 9:12-13)*
- *The blood will be a **sign** for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. (Exodus 12:13)*
- *“Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a **sign** between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy.’” (Exodus 31:13)*
- *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a **sign**: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)*
- *When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a **sign** of some sort. (Luke 23:8)*

Examination: Our account today contains only 12 verses. Take some time to discuss each one of the verses, answering these questions:

- **What strikes you as unusual about this verse?**
- **Think very specifically about the details. Is there anything that stands out?**
- **What is it about what happened that serves as a “sign” (v. 11) - pointing to what?**

John 2:1 – *On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there...*

John 2:2 – *...and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.*

John 2:3 – *When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”*

John 2:4 – *“Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”*

John 2:5 – *“His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”*

John 2:6 – *Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.*

John 2:7 – *Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.*

John 2:8 – *Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so...*

John 2:9 – *...and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside...*

John 2:10 – *...and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”*

John 2:11 – *What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.*

John 2:12 – *After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.*

Application:

Try to pay extra attention this coming week to the many different signs that you encounter in your day-to-day life (road signs, gestures, etc.) Be extra aware of any events in your life that “point” you to the presence and activity of God in your life (some people call these small graces).