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<p><b>Theme: Maturing Wine</b></p>	<p><b>Date: 24 2 12</b></p>
<p><b>Scripture:</b> Jesus turns water into wine at a wedding John 2 v 6-7 Nearby stood 6 stone water jars – each holding from 20-30 gallons. Jesus said, “Fill the jars with water” so they filled them to the brim....</p> <p>“Everyone uses the good wine first and serves cheaper wine once the guests have had too much to drink – but you have saved the best wine until now”</p>	<p><b>Comment:</b> We looked at this story before, but I can’t forget it! Jesus made a lot of wine – enough for a life time! That set me to thinking about wine making. You take fruit, you squeeze out the juice and you let it mature with some expertise. Is that like my marriage? Jesus provides the expertise. We are like the fruit that ripens, gets squeezed by life and then it ages! We might worry our marriage is getting stale? But actually the best wines are often the oldest provided they are well looked after! Are you trusting the wine master and staying in touch with Him?</p>
<p><b>Prayer (as a couple):</b> Father we are glad that you take the long view and you are making something special out of the fruit of our lives together. Help us trust your expertise and not panic when our lives have some complicated ingredients added. Please help us be sweet with each other and not sour. Help us to ripen in the sunshine of your love for us. Amen</p>	<p><b>Prayer (for others):</b> Father you invented marriage and family, you delight in it. We pray for any couples in our families, churches or the streets near us, who feel old and stale. We pray that you will give them a foretaste of the wine you are making. Encourage them Lord. Liven up their interest in each other and in their life together. Shine upon them Lord Amen</p>
<p><b>Final quote:</b> This was the first of His miraculous signs – performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory and his disciples believed in Him. John 6 v 11</p>	

**Remember others will also be praying in this way this week. Together and with God we can make a difference.**

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