

Lesson 8

Jesus' First Miracle

Bible Text: John 2:1-11 Jesus' first miracle at Cana reveals His power as the Son of God and strengthens His disciples' faith.

Bible Truth: Jesus has the power to meet my needs.

Bible Verse: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Matthew 16:16 (NIV)

For the Teacher

In turning water into wine, Jesus demonstrated His power as the Son of God. Like the disciples, our faith is strengthened when we see that no problem is too big or too small for Jesus. Jesus knows and cares about our needs, and He has the power to meet them.

(Special Note: Wine was a common symbol of God's abundance, joy, and the sweetness of love. It was culturally appropriate to be served at a wedding.)

LESSON SEGMENT	TIME	SEGMENT DESCRIPTION	SUPPLIES & PREPARATION
Focus on God's Word	7 min.	Game: Water Jar Relay	2 cups, 2 large bowls with water, 2 empty jugs, towels for floor.
Bible Truth	5 min.	Jesus has the power to meet my needs.	
Learn God's Word	18 min.	John 2:1-11 Object Lesson: Water to Wine!	Visuals 8a, 8b, map: Life of Jesus, 6 clear glasses, red food coloring, dark cloth, large jug of clean water.
Memorize God's Word	8 min.	Bible Verse: Matthew 16:16 Bible Verse Activity: Water Play	Write the verse on pieces of paper. Tape each word or phrase to a water bottle. Stopwatch.
Connect with God's Word	12 min.	Craft: Stone Jar Prayer Response	Modeling clay and toothpicks or paper and color pencils.
Act on God's Word	10 min.	Activity: Jesus Meets our Needs Jar	Clay or paper jar from previous section.
Review God's Word	10 min.	Review Questions Review Activity: Water, Water, Water, Wine Role Play: It's a Miracle!	Simple Bible costumes or material for a wedding veil, red powdered drink, water, clear plastic cups, 2 jugs.



FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Game: Water Jar Relay

Supplies: 2 cups, 2 large bowls with water, 2 empty jugs, towels

Divide the kids into 2 teams. Have them line up at one end of the room. At the opposite end, place one bowl full of water and one empty jug for each team. The first child on each team walks with an empty cup to the bowl of water. They fill the cup and pour it into the empty jug. Then they walk back and give the empty cup to the next child on their team. The team that fills their empty jug first wins! Have towels ready to dry the floor to prevent slipping. Warn the kids to walk not run.

Today we will learn about the first miracle that Jesus did. This miracle showed He is the Son of God and has the power to meet our needs.



BIBLE TRUTH

Bible Truth: Jesus has the power to meet my needs.

Let's say the Bible Truth before we listen to how Jesus helped some people in the Bible.

(Have the kids say the Bible Truth with you.)



LEARN GOD'S WORD

Object Lesson: Water to Wine

Do this Object Lesson as you tell the Bible story, The Wedding at Cana.

Items needed: 6 clear empty drinking glasses with a few drops of red food coloring in the bottom of each glass. A large jug of clean water.

Place the 6 empty glasses in front of you on a dark cloth so the kids will not notice the red food coloring. When you come to the point in the story where Jesus turned the water into wine, pour clean water into each glass. The water will turn red.

(Open your Bible to John 2.)

Has anyone ever been to a wedding? (Allow responses.) Did you ever hear about a wedding that lasted several days? (Allow responses.) In Jesus' day, a wedding usually lasted a whole week. The bride and groom would invite all their friends and relatives to come and celebrate with them. What a lot of food and drink to prepare for all those guests!

One day, Jesus, his mother Mary, and the disciples were invited to a wedding celebration in a little town in Galilee called Cana. Cana is near Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. (Have

a child find Cana on the map.) What a fun time it was celebrating with the bride and groom. People were eating, drinking, and maybe even dancing!

Suddenly the host of the party realized that they had run out of wine. Now what? What if a guest asked for a drink? They would not have any more wine to give them! This was embarrassing. If there was no wine, the wedding guests would think they were not respected. It was a serious matter. The wedding party was going to be ruined.

Jesus' mother knew about the problem of no wine, and she knew who could fix it. She quietly went to Jesus to ask Him to help. *(Display visual 8a.)* She said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you."

Nearby there were six large stone jars used by the Jews in their washing ceremonies. Each one could hold about 100 liters.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water."

The servants obeyed. Back and forth they went, pouring water into the jars until they were all full.

(As you talk, pour water from the jug into each glass. The red food coloring will make the water look like wine.)

Then Jesus told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the host to taste." They did just as Jesus said. *(Display visual 8b.)* The host tasted the wine and was very surprised. "You have saved the best wine until last," he said to the bridegroom. Something strange and wonderful had happened. Jesus had changed the water into wine! And it was not just any wine. It was the very best. The host didn't know where it had come from, but the servants and the disciples did.

The celebration went on and everyone was happy. The servants were happy. Now there was enough wine for all the guests. The bride and groom were happy. Their wedding feast was going well, and they wouldn't lose face. Jesus had taken care of their need. The disciples were happy! This was the first time they'd seen Jesus perform a miracle. Jesus had turned the water into wine.

This miracle wasn't about the wine though. It was about teaching the disciples to trust and believe in Jesus. This wonderful miracle showed them that Jesus was no ordinary person. Jesus is the Son of God, so He can make anything happen! This miracle shows that Jesus has the power to meet our needs. It also shows His concern that a wedding party would be a success. Wow! What an awesome God Jesus is!



MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

Bible Verse: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God! Matthew 16:16

After that first miracle at the wedding in Cana, the disciples saw Jesus do many more miracles. One day Jesus asked them, "Who do you say I am?" And Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!" *(Matthew 16:16). Say the verse then ask the*

kids: Who do you say Jesus is?

(Have the kids say the verse. Repeat the question a few times and have the kids answer.)

Bible Verse Activity: Water Play

Items needed: 6-8 water bottles. paper, tape, stopwatch

Write the words of the memory verse on pieces of paper. Tape each word or phrase to a water bottle. Put the bottles in a pile.

Divide the class into two teams. Using a stopwatch, time each team in turn to see which team can put the bottles in the correct order the fastest.



CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD

Our Bible verse tells us that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God? Do you believe that? *(Allow responses.)*

How did Jesus show He is God at the wedding party? *(Allow responses.)* **He did a miracle to meet the need for more wine. Who remembers what our Bible Truth is?** *(Help the kids answer: Jesus has the power to meet my needs.)*

Craft: Stone Jar

Items needed: Modelling Clay, toothpicks

(If clay is not available have the kids draw and color a jar on paper.)

Give each child a lump of modeling clay and instruct them to make a jar.

As they are shaping a small jar from the clay, talk to them about the Bible Truth and Bible Verse.

Jesus cares for us and can help us with any problem.

He can forgive our sins. He can heal us when we are sick.

He can give us the things we need – food, clothes, friends.

You can tell Jesus about all your problems any time - no matter how big or small they are -just like Mary did at the wedding.

You can tell Him if you are feeling sad.

You can ask Him to help you find something you have lost.

You can tell Him when you feel anxious because your mom is ill.

You can talk to Jesus about it! Jesus can help you.

Jesus cared about the bride and groom at the wedding in Cana, and He met their need.

He cares about you and wants to meet your needs, too.

Jesus is the Son of God.

After they have finished their jars, give each child a toothpick. Have them draw a heart or cross on their jar to remind them that Jesus cares for them and then put their initials on the jar.

Say: Jesus has the power to meet your needs. He is God, and He is concerned about you.

Prayer Response

Now have the kids sit quietly holding their jars. Ask a few kids to tell a specific need they have and immediately have all the kids pray for that friend.

Lead the kids in this closing prayer: Dear God, thank You, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Thank You that Jesus has the power to meet our needs. Thank You that Jesus cares about us. Thank You that Jesus is still doing miracles today. Even though we can't see Him, He is alive and loves us very much. Help us to believe in Jesus and trust Him. Amen!

Who do you say Jesus is? (Bible verse) You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Matthew 16:16

What can Jesus do for you? (Bible Truth) Jesus has the power to meet our needs.

Leading a Child to Jesus: Explain the plan of salvation and pray with any child who wants to accept Jesus as their Savior. (See Teacher's Guide p.3 Leading a Child to Jesus.)



ACT ON GOD'S WORD

Activity: Jesus Meets Our Needs Jar

Supplies: You will need the clay jars the kids made or the paper jars they colored from Connect with God's Word segment.

Have each child place the clay jar (or paper jar) they made on a table.

In turn, let each child take one jar that they did not make. If he gets his own, have him put it back and take another one.

Encourage the kids to take that jar home and pray daily for the person whose name is written on it. Remind them that Jesus is the Son of God. He has the power to meet the needs of their friends.



REVIEW GOD'S WORD

Review Questions

1. Where did Jesus go to a wedding? (In Cana)
2. Who went to the wedding with Jesus? (His disciples and Mary, His mother)
3. What happened at the wedding that could have spoiled the celebration? (They ran out of wine.)
4. What did Jesus tell the servants to do? (To fill some big jars with water)
5. After the jars were full of water, what did Jesus tell the servants to do? (Take some to the host)
6. What did the host think about the wine that came from the jars? (He thought it was the best wine he had tasted at the wedding.)

7. What did Jesus' first miracle show? (Answers may vary: Jesus has the power to meet our needs. He is the Son of God. He cared about the bride and groom.)
8. What kind of needs can we ask Jesus to help us with? (Any need, big or small)
9. Why was it a problem that they ran out of wine? (The guests would think the host didn't respect them.)
10. Why do you think Mary told Jesus about the problem? (She knew He could help.)
11. Why do you think Jesus was able to turn water into wine? (He is the Son of God.)
12. Do you think that His disciples were surprised? (It was the first miracle, so probably yes.)

Review Activity: Water, Water, Water, Wine

Have the kids stand in a circle. Walk around the circle, tapping each child on the shoulder as you say, "Water, water, water, wine!" The child you tap as you say "wine" will then answer a review question. If he answers correctly, he trades places with you and taps someone on the shoulder. If any child answers incorrectly, he does not trade places with the child doing the tapping. When a child has had a turn, he should remain in the circle but face out so he won't be chosen again. Play until each child has answered a question.

Role Play: It's a miracle!

Items needed: a jug with red powdered drink mix in the bottom, a jug of drinking water, clear plastic cups, simple Bible costumes or material for a wedding veil

Have the kids act out the story of the Wedding in Cana.

Choose kids to play the parts of the bride and groom, servants, Mary, Jesus, the disciples, the guests, and the host of the feast.

When they get to the part where the servants fill the water jars, have a 'servant' take the jug of drinking water and pour it into the jug with the drink mix, stir it up, and watch the water turn to wine! The host then pours it into clear drinking cups for all the 'guests' to drink. As each guest gets a cup they will say, "It's a miracle!"