

Life of Christ

A Wedding in Cana

John 2:1-12

Younger Verse

His disciples put their faith in him. John 2:11 (CEV)

Older Verse

This was Jesus' first miracle, and he did it in the village of Cana in Galilee. There Jesus showed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. John 2:11 (CEV)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

Have you ever been to a wedding? You didn't go by yourself, did you? Who went with you? Maybe your parents and your brothers or sisters? Maybe even a friend?

Jesus went to a wedding, too. In our story today, from John chapter 2, we read that there was a wedding in Galilee. Galilee is the area (region) Jesus went to and found Philip. It is also the area where Andrew and Peter were from. The wedding was in the village or town of Cana. Jesus' mother, Mary, went to the wedding and Jesus and his disciples were invited.

While Jesus and his mother and his disciples were at the wedding, they ran out of the wine they were drinking. When Mary, Jesus' mother, told Jesus about this, He said something that seems strange. He said, "My hour has not yet come," which means "it's not time yet." Jesus was not being rude when He said this. Jesus was telling His mother, and the others around Him, that He did not just do things when He felt like it or when others thought He should. Jesus did what God wanted Him to do because God sent Him. How do you think Jesus knew what God wanted? Well, the Bible tells us that Jesus prayed a lot! And prayer is talking with God. So, Jesus knew what God wanted Him to do because He talked to God.

Jesus cared about these people who were getting married and wanted them to have everything they needed. They used jugs or (water-pots) for water because there were no sinks or faucets in their house like we have in our houses. For the wedding, they had six big stone jugs and each jug held twenty to thirty gallons each. Does that sound like a lot of water to you? Well, it is! To fill up a bath tub halfway uses about

Lesson Goals

To introduce that Jesus can perform miracles.
To share that because of those miracles we should believe in Jesus.

thirty gallons of water! So, each one of those jugs held a bathtub's amount of water! They used the water that was kept in these jugs to wash their hands. Jesus told the waiters to fill up all six jugs and they filled them up all the way to the top! Miraculously, Jesus changed the water to wine! Jesus then told the waiters to take some of the wine to the headwaiter, the one who was in charge. This wine was so good, so much better than what they had been drinking, that the headwaiter was surprised and amazed!

The Bible tells us that this was Jesus' first miracle. The Bible also tells us that because Jesus performed this miracle, He showed how great and powerful He was, that He was God's Son. Because of this miracle, Jesus' disciples believed in Him. Andrew and Peter, Philip and Nathanael had trusted Jesus enough to follow Him, but now they believed; they put their faith in Him.

Maybe you've been to church all of your life or maybe you have just heard about who Jesus is. Maybe you know lots of things about all of the Bible stories you have been taught or this could be the first lesson you have ever heard from the Bible. Either way, just knowing about Jesus is not enough. Just like it was a good thing that Jesus' disciples followed Him, it is a very good thing that you are in church, learning from the Bible about Jesus. But even more important is that you believe in Him, that you trust your life to Him. Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son, that He is God? Do you believe that Jesus came to die for you and for me? Do you want to follow Him and be obedient to Him and tell others about Him? Then, let's talk . . .

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Make several sets of cards that contain parts of the Bible verse, ranging from several words per card to only one word per card. Beginning with the cards containing several words, string yarn from wall to wall. Pin Bible verse cards in random order with clothes pins. Help students arrange the Bible verse in its correct order. When these cards have been mastered, move to the cards that contain fewer words.

Prayer Time

Use this prayer time to thank God for the opportunity to talk to Him.

**Clean Up and
Snack Time**

Serve grape juice out of a pitcher, enlisting students to help serve. Talk about Jesus' first miracle and continue to see where your students are in terms of believing in Jesus.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 7
Jesus Cleans Out the Temple
John 2:13-25

Preschool Lesson

Jesus and the Wedding

Have you ever been to a wedding? What kinds of things did you see there? (Allow your preschoolers to share what they have seen. If necessary, prompt them with things like a cake, pretty dresses, flowers . . .)

In our lesson from the Bible today, we read that Jesus went to a wedding. At this wedding he saw his mother and his friends. He also saw the bride and the groom. He saw waiters and he even saw six big stone jugs! Have you ever seen big jugs or pitchers made from stone at a wedding? You know what? I've been to a lot of weddings and I have never seen big stone jugs either! How many jugs did He see? 1-2-3-4-5-6!

These jugs were BIG! In fact, each one held more water than you use when you take a bath! Each one held thirty gallons of water and they were used so that people could wash their hands. You see, when Jesus grew up, they had no sinks and running water in their houses like we do.

While Jesus was at the wedding, they ran out of the wine they were drinking. When Jesus found out, He did an amazing thing. Jesus changed the water in those six big jugs into wine. Now everyone who had come to the wedding would still have something to drink! Jesus knew they needed something and he provided it.

Pray: Thank you, Jesus, for changing water to wine.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving me the things I need, like clothes and shoes and food.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- On a simple outline map of the Holy Land, have students find the following:
 - Jerusalem (where the people came from to question John, Jn 1:19)
 - Bethany (where John was questioned, Jn 1:28)
 - The Jordan River (where John was baptizing, Jn 1:28)
 - Galilee (where Jesus went after meeting Andrew, Jn 1:43)
 - Bethsaida (the village of Philip, Andrew and Peter, Jn 1:44)
 - Cana of Galilee (where the wedding was, Jn 2:1)
 - Capernaum (where Jesus stayed with his mother, brothers and disciples, Jn 2:12)

When they have found the cities, have them trace the path Jesus walked.

****You might enjoy doing this activity first, as a review of the previous lessons. If so, review all but Cana and Capernaum, reserving them until after the lesson.****

- On construction paper, draw the outline of a jar. Provide your students with magazines, allowing them to cut out wedding pictures and decorate as desired.
- Play “Red Light, Green Light.” Explain to your students, the importance of listening and stopping when “red light” is called. Even more important is talking to God and obeying what He tells us.
- Girls might enjoy decorating small jars drawn onto card stock. Provide them with lace, ribbon, buttons, etc. If available, attach pins to the back of their jar brooches so they may be worn.