

Jesus' First Miracle

(John 2:1-10)

Introduction

Who knows what a miracle is? [Teacher, discuss miracles with the children.] Miracles are extraordinary or supernatural events that defy nature. For example, Jesus restored sight to a blind man, he made a lame man walk, and He even revived a dead man back to life. Have you ever experienced a miracle in your life? Have you ever skinned your knee? Did you know that when God heals your cuts or bruises, that is a miracle of God!

Opening Prayer

Father, encourage our hearts this morning as we learn that You are a God of miracles. We know that You love to amaze us so that we will know that You are God the Son and worthy of our praise. Thank You that nothing is too hard for You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

Lesson

Have you ever been invited to a wedding? What was it like? Was there a big banquet with lots of things to eat and drink? Were there a lot of people there having a good time? Even Jesus went to parties.

Weddings in Jesus' day were week-long celebrations. Often the whole town was invited and everybody would come. They always had a large banquet table full of specially prepared goodies to eat and drink.

One time, Jesus and the disciples were invited to a wedding at Cana.

John 2:1-2

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, (2) and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration.

Jesus' mother was there, too. She was helping to make sure that there was plenty of food and wine for everyone. And boy, was she happy to see her Son arrive.

Everyone was having a good time at this wedding in Cana until something very embarrassing happened to the father of the bride. Suddenly, Jesus' mother discovered that they ran out of wine! There was nothing to give the guests to drink.

John 2:3

The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

Now this would have been very embarrassing for the father of the bride. So Mary told Jesus what had happened. She was hoping that her son would help solve this major problem and find some wine. She was certain that He would help.

John 2:4

"Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

When Mary told Jesus about the problem, He told her, "*That's not our problem!*" and explained to her that it was not yet time for Him to reveal Himself to the world as the Messiah.

John 2:5

But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Mary trusted that Jesus would do the right thing. So, she told the servants to do whatever He says. She knew that Jesus was compassionate and wouldn't want the family to be humiliated in front of all their guests.

Jesus listened to His mother; He knew just what to do. He saw that there were six huge water jars standing nearby.

John 2:6-8

Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. (7) Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, (8) he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

These water pots were huge. It says they held 20 or 30 gallons of water each. A bathtub holds about 30 gallons, so you can imagine how big these were. Each jar weighed about 300 pounds.

These servants must have wondered what in the world Jesus was doing. They might have looked at each other wondering why they should serve water to the master of the feast (probably the bride's father). But they obeyed Jesus. And, something very unusual happened as they poured... [Teacher, pour water from a clear pitcher into an opaque one containing a package of Kool-Aid.]

John 2:9-10

When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. (10) "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

[Now pour the Kool-Aid from the opaque pitcher back into the clear one.] Jesus turned ordinary water into fine wine. He helped keep the family from being embarrassed or humiliated in front of their guests.

John 2:11

This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

This was the first miracle Jesus performed. When the disciples saw it they believed that He was truly God the Son. The miracle showed his power.

Jesus loves people and wants to take care of their needs.

Jesus will take care of your needs, too. Do you know what your greatest need is? [Teacher, entertain answers.] Your greatest need is forgiveness for your sins. Because without that, you cannot see God.

Sometimes our hearts are filled with the wrong things, such as bad attitudes and thoughts. We can change how we look on the outside, but only Jesus can change what's on the inside. We can ask for His help just like Mary did!

He can change us just like He changed the water into wine. Jesus is the Son of God and has power to change anything. He can change the worst sinner into a child of God!

One day there will be a wedding in heaven and you have been invited to attend! At this wedding Jesus will be the *groom* and His church will be the *bride*. Anyone who has asked Jesus to be their personal Savior will be there. The church is called the *bride of Christ*.

God created marriage between a man and woman to be a picture of our relationship with Him. He wants a husband and a wife to enjoy a close and personal relationship. And, in the same way He wants us to enjoy a close personal relationship with Him for all eternity. And it all starts when we are born again.

Object Lesson: Before class, secretly place red Kool-Aid package in an opaque pitcher. Fill another clear pitcher with water. While you are telling the story of the servants filling the pots with water, pour the water from the clear pitcher into the opaque one. When you get to the part of the story when they draw some water out, pour some Kool-Aid out of the opaque pitcher into a clear glass. The students will be surprised to find that it has turned red. (Be sure to share your "trick" with them so they will know that you did not perform a miracle!) Pour all the Kool-Aid back into the pitcher, add sugar, stir it up and share the treat with the children.

Discuss the Object Lesson

1. What was your reaction when the water came out red?

2. How was this activity like Jesus' miracle at the wedding?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to show Your power and take our sins away. Help us look to You for help in every situation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Activity Corner

"Water To Wine" Worksheet

Have the children circle the actions or attitudes they want Jesus to help them with. Or, have them write five or six attitudes that they would like to change on a "jar" pattern. Then, on the back have, them write the attitude that they would like Jesus to give them instead.

Game Center

Or, use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Where did Jesus perform His first miracle? (In Cana of Galilee.)
2. What celebration was Jesus attending? (A wedding.)
3. Who else was at the wedding that Jesus knew well? (His mother.)
4. What did they run out of at the feast? (Wine.)
5. What did Jesus do with the water in the jar? (Turned it into wine.)
6. What enabled Jesus to change the water to wine? (He is God; He can do anything.)

7. How do you think the guests and disciples reacted when Jesus turned water to wine?

8. What would you have said to Jesus if you had been at the wedding?

9. Why do you think Jesus performed a miracle at the wedding?

10. How did His disciples respond to what Jesus did? (Vs 11)

11. What miracles does God perform today?

12. Can we ask Jesus for help today, too?

Discussion Questions for Older Children

1. Look at **verse 3**. When the wine ran out why did Mary tell Jesus about the situation? In other words, why did Mary think that Jesus could help with this embarrassing situation?
(She must have known that He had miraculous powers. Possibly she had witnessed Jesus doing miracles before so had the confidence to ask Him to help. If anyone should have known Jesus' ability to do miracles it should have been Mary. Also, Mary trusted that Jesus would do the right thing.)
2. In **verse 4**, what did Jesus mean when He said, "*My hour has not yet come.*"
(He meant it was not time for Him to begin His public ministry to reveal Himself to the world as the Messiah.)

So, why did He do the miracle if it wasn't time for Him to reveal Himself to the world?
(Jesus is compassionate and didn't want this family to be humiliated in front of their guests. Jesus loves people and wants to take care of their needs.)

3. When you make wine, it takes a long period of time for the grape juice to ferment and become wine. However, Jesus turned this water to wine immediately. In an instant, He created wine far tastier than the best. How does this compare to when Jesus created the universe (Col 1:16)?
(Jesus simply willed it to happen; He spoke it into existence.)
4. Trick Question: How do you think the guests, the bridegroom, and the bride's father reacted when Jesus turned water to wine?
(He did do the miracle as His mother wanted, but He did not show the public that it was He who did the miracle. Look at **verse 9**, only the servants knew. So, the bridegroom and guests, did not know that Jesus was the one who supplied the wine or how it was supplied.)
5. The wine that Jesus created was far better than any wine they had ever tasted. What does this tell you about the things of God?
(The things of God are always better than the things of man. God gives the absolute best; you can only receive the best for your life from God.)
6. Can Satan perform miracles?
(Yes! Satan has unusual power and ability. The bible tells us that he can perform false signs and lying wonders (2 Thes 2:7-10).)

What is the difference between magic and miracles?

Miracles	Magic
Under God's control.	Under man's control.
Not available on command.	Available on command.
Draws people to God.	Diverts people's attention away from God.
Always glorifies God.	Always takes the glory away from God.

Miracles	Magic
Helps us believe that Jesus is God.	Tricks us into believing something that is not true.

Jesus' miracles always had a purpose. John calls them **signs**. We use signs to identify a person, place or thing. For example, you have signs on the bathroom door so you know where to go; you have a sign marking the Exit of a building so if there's a fire you can escape.

What was this sign meant to teach us about Jesus?
(Look at **verse 11**. This sign revealed His glory and caused His disciples to truly believe He was the Messiah. Jesus' signs show us that He is God.)

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