

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-11



New Testament 2
Part 1: Miracles Show Jesus' Great Power

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 2 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

John 2:1-11

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "His disciples believed in Him" (John 2:11b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him" (John 2:11).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site

- ["Jesus Went to a Wedding \(rhyme\)"](#)
- ["Jesus' First Miracle"](#)
- ["Who's the King of the Jungle?"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [Miracles & Teachings of Jesus](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 2 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Matthew Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- ["Map of New Testament World"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- ["Map of Palestine"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- AP's short videos, ["Jesus and Miracles"](#) and ["6 Reasons to Believe in Jesus"](#) by Kyle Butt and ["One Proof of God: Jesus"](#) by Eric Lyons
- Wedding pictures from kids' parents or magazines



- Gallon container of water (Each water pot at the wedding held 20-30 gallons.)
- Boyhood and Early Ministry A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- Pictures to go with the “Jesus Went to a Wedding” rhyme

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I believe Jesus was God’s Son because of the miraculous signs He performed.

LESSON STARTS HERE

TEACHING ALERTS:



- In contemplating whether Jesus turned water into an alcoholic beverage, consider four observations. First, the English word “wine” inevitably refers to an alcoholic beverage. However, the Greek word *oinos*, transliterated “wine” in English, was used in the first century as a **broad** term that referred to the blood of the grape **regardless of its condition**—whether fermented or non-fermented (i.e., grape juice). Context must determine what form of the liquid is being referenced. [Instances where the word “wine” clearly refers to unfermented grape juice may be seen in Genesis 49:11, Isaiah 16:10, Isaiah 65:8, Jeremiah 40:10,12, and Proverbs 3:10.] There is nothing in John 2 to warrant the interpretation that this “wine” was intoxicating.
- Second, the term rendered “drunk” (John 2:10) has the same latitude of meaning as the English word “drunk.” It can mean “intoxicated” or it can simply serve as a form of the word “drink” without any reference to what is drunk. The term in John 2:10 simply means “to drink freely or abundantly.” “Have well drunk” refers to the **amount** of liquid consumed, not the **nature, condition, or quality** of the liquid. It is difficult to conceive of the Son of God providing perhaps 120+ gallons of intoxicating beverage to a company of people who had already consumed considerable intoxicating liquid. Such a conception strikes at the nature of deity, casting the sinless Son of God in an ethically questionable light, to say the least (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:11; 8:13; Galatians 5:21). Jesus’ action of creating yet more intoxicating drink would be an endorsement of drunkenness, in contradiction to passages on drunkenness and sobriety. He would have also been assisting the guests to sin by becoming even more intoxicated, rather than discouraging drunkenness. This would have made Jesus a sinner.
- Third, the master of the feast points out that the good wine is typically offered initially at feasts and the “inferior” wine later (John 2:10). Many assume his comment proves that the wine being served at the feast was intoxicating, since the reason for offering the inferior wine later would be because the guests would become too intoxicated to know the difference later. Besides the fact that such an interpretation, if true, would prove that Jesus made yet more intoxicating beverage for intoxicated people (thus, becoming a stumbling block for sinners), it disregards the fact that a reasonable explanation is available which fits the contention that the wine was non-intoxicating. While most hosts would offer the best drinks or foods first in order to “put their best foot forward,” the master recognized that the juice Jesus created tasted pristine—as if just freshly squeezed from grapes. A comparable comparison is the difference between bottled orange juice from the store shelf versus freshly squeezed orange juice just taken from the tree in its fully ripened condition.



TEACHING ALERTS (cont.):

- Fourth, don't miss the point of the miracle: Jesus did instantly what nature requires literally months to achieve. The process that God created by which soil, Sun, moisture, climate, and vines are able to produce a fruit that contains sweet, delectable juice is incredible in itself. But for Jesus to pass over that process to provide the end result was miraculous—a “sign” that manifested His glory/divinity (2:11).
- One further note: Even the fermented wine of the first century was far less potent than the wines of today. This miracle does not give us justification to drink the liquid we call “wine” today. For more study on this subject, see the following resources: William Patton (1874), *Bible Wines or the Laws of Fermentation and Wines of the Ancients*; Wayne Jackson—“The Wine that Jesus Made” (<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/666-john-2-1ff-the-wine-that-jesus-made>); Jim McGuiggan (1977), *The Bible, The Saint, and The Liquor Industry*; M.H. Tucker (1988), “Social Drinking—The Biblical View,” *Gospel Advocate*, 56-57, April; Garland Elkins and Robert Taylor (1986), *Social Drinking: Unjustified, Unsocial, Unwise, and Unscriptural* (Memphis, TN: Getwell church of Christ); W.D. Jeffcoat (1987), *The Bible and “Social” Drinking* (Corinth, MS: Robinson Typesetting); Jim Waldron (1977), “A National Killer—Beverage Alcohol” in *Living Soberly, Righteously, and Godly*, ed. Thomas Eaves, 3rd Annual East Tennessee SOP Lectureship; Alexander Campbell (1870), *The Bible and Wine*; D.R. Dungan (1879), *Rum and Ruin: The Remedy Found*; Roy Deaver (1974), “The Book of Romans,” in *Freed-Hardeman College Lectures*, p. 311; Otis Gatewood (1955), “The Use of Wine by Christians,” *Gospel Advocate*, July 7.

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Jesus grew up just like we do. He did things like play, help around the house, and obey His parents. Then He became a grown man, but most people did not know He was the Son of God. He was waiting for the right time to let them know.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

After Jesus was a grown man and had chosen His first disciples—the ones who would help Him and learn from Him during the time He was here on Earth—most people still did not know He was the Son of God. He was waiting for the right time to let them know.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Not long after Jesus met some of His first disciples (Peter, Andrew, Philip, and Nathanael), they were all invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. [Cana was only a few miles from Nazareth.] Jesus' mother (and possibly His brothers [2:12]) was also a guest at this wedding.
2. In New Testament times, there was no formal wedding ceremony like we have today. On the chosen day, the bridegroom and many friends, along with musicians and singers, walked to the bride's house together. Then, after receiving a blessing from the bride's parents, the entire group would return to the bridegroom's house. Then the bride and bridegroom went into his house together, and they were considered married. There was a great feast at the bridegroom's house, lasting one to two weeks.
3. Weddings were happy occasions; times of celebration. Jesus being at this wedding lets us know that Jesus enjoyed being with people during good times, sharing their joys. He was surrounded by much

suffering and unhappiness throughout His ministry, but this was one time when He could share people's joys.

4. It was important to the bridegroom's family that everyone had enough to eat and drink throughout the celebration. But when they ran out of drink too soon, Mary wanted to help. She had never seen Jesus perform a **sign**, but she believed He could help. When Jesus said, "What do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come?" He was making it clear that He was to be under His Heavenly Father's direction on such things as miracles.



The word "**sign**" means a supernatural act; an extraordinary event that demands a supernatural explanation. A sign or miracle is not an event which could occur naturally. It had a SUPERnatural explanation.

5. His mother, Mary, told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them. Then Jesus told them to fill six large stone **water pots** with water. The servants followed His instructions. He directed them to take a sample of the liquid to the man in charge of the feast. The master of the feast was very surprised that what he was drinking was such good quality wine, which was usually served at the beginning of the feast.



NOTE ON PURPOSE OF WATER POTS: The Old Law contained guidelines about purifying oneself after coming in contact with anything "unclean." The large water pots at the wedding were for ceremonial washings. In their efforts to be physically clean, the Jews carried these instructions to extremes, even adding their own traditions.

6. Only a handful of people knew what had happened. Large crowds did not witness Jesus' first miraculous sign, but those that saw it believed in Him. This was always the **purpose of miracles**: to prove that the words spoken were divine truth and, in Jesus' case, to prove that He was God's Son.



NOTE: Signs were done in order to confirm the Word of God and Jesus as the Son of God (Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:20; John 5:36)

7. Jesus, as the Son of God, is "omnipotent," which means He is all-powerful. He is powerful enough to do anything that can logically be done. He was involved in Creation (John 1:1-5), and He is in control of all created things. He was the Great Cause behind all the effects (results) in Nature.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article "[**‘The Very Works that I Do Bear Witness of Me’**](#)" by Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt and "[**How Rude!?**](#)" by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for discussions about miracles in the New Testament and a response to the accusation that Jesus was being rude or disrespectful when He said, "Woman, what does that have to do with Me?"

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Keys](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[The Wedding Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Let children role play the story.
- Have an outline of a jar on a piece of paper. Inside the jar draw a picture (or let students draw one) from the story.
- Decorate a jar (or the outline of a jar on a piece of paper) using confetti from a wedding or little pieces of brightly colored paper.
- Have dress up clothes with small veils, white sheets, etc.
- Pour the children a small amount of water in a cup to taste and then grape juice to taste. Which do you prefer? Why?

1st-2nd Graders:

- Play Tic Tac Toe with facts from this lesson ([Tic-Tac-Toe Questions](#), [Instructions](#), and [Board](#) provided in activity section of the website)
- Bride and groom cutouts ([Black and White](#)) ([Color](#)) (provided in activity sheets): Write questions about the lesson on the groom with their answers written on the brides. Students match the correct answers with the questions to make pairs.
- “[Water Into Juice True or False Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[The Wedding](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus the Miracle Worker Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Where Did It Happen?](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Play Tic Tac Toe with facts from this lesson ([Tic-Tac-Toe Questions](#), [Instructions](#), and [Board](#) provided in activity section of the website)
- Bride and groom cutouts ([Black and White](#)) ([Color](#)) (provided in activity sheets): Write questions about the lesson on the groom with their answers written on the brides. Students match the correct answers with the questions to make pairs.
- “[Water Into Juice True or False Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[The Wedding](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus the Miracle Worker Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Where Did It Happen?](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - John chapters 1-2
 - *Discovery* magazine issues (NOTE: [Advanced Bible Reader](#) quizzes exist for many issues of *Discovery* magazine): “Water to Wine” ([December, 2002](#)); [August, 2021](#)
 - *Jesus’ First Miracle Arch Book*
 - *The Wedding at Cana* by Joanne Bader, Arch Books

POEM:

“JESUS WENT TO A WEDDING” (RHYME)

Author: Unknown*

Jesus went to a wedding,
And the wine was all gone.
His mother, Mary, came to Him
To tell Him what was wrong.
Jesus answered Mary,
“My time has not yet come.”
Mary did not understand
But listened to her Son.
She told the servants to obey
What Jesus told them to do.
They filled six jugs with water,
And Jesus made wine new.

SONGS:

“JESUS’ FIRST MIRACLE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook (adapted)

(Tune: “A Wonderful Savior is Jesus My Lord”)

VERSE 1:

In Ca-na one day was a wed-ding so fine,
And Je-sus and Mar-y were there.
His moth-er told Him that they had no more wine,
Would Je-sus have some-thing to share?

CHORUS:

Oh, Moth-er, my dear, My time has not come.
But Mar-y con-tin-ued to try,
So Je-sus gave or-ders for ser-vants that day,
And gal-lons of wine did pro-vide.
And gal-lons of wine did pro-vide.

VERSE 2:

The six wa-ter pots that were made of hard stone,
Were filled to the brim by the men,
But Je-sus’ great pow’r changed the wa-ter to wine,
And ev-‘ryone glo-ri-fied Him.

2nd CHORUS:

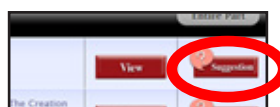
Oh, what a sur-prise that the best wine was last.
They real-ly did not un-der-stand,
That God had come down from His
home on high,
To of-fer sal-va-tion to man,
To of-fer sal-va-tion to man.

“WHO’S THE KING OF THE JUNGLE?”

[See Internet for words and tune]

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I believe Jesus was God’s Son because of the miraculous signs He performed.

INTRODUCTION:

Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 2 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

[N.T. 2 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 2 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Discuss the importance of marriage, choosing the right partner, etc. Discuss that even though many people are divorced today, that’s not how God planned it (Matthew 19:6).
2. Discuss what “signs” were (supernatural acts; extraordinary events that demand supernatural explanations) and what they were used for (Signs were done in order to confirm the Word of God and Jesus as the Son of God—Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:20; John 5:36). Miracles happened for a purpose and during a time. They no longer happen today (The apostles were the only ones with the power to pass on the ability to do miracles—Acts 8:18. See also Zechariah 12:10; 13:1-2; Acts 2), nor are they needed since we have all of God’s Word (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:8-12; 2 Peter 1:3).
3. Discuss other references to wine and strong drink in the Bible, as well as problems with drug and alcohol addiction (Proverbs 20:1; 23:20-21,31-32).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

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