

## Jesus Turned Water to Wine

Bible Passage: John 2:1-12

Main Point: Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine.

Key Passage: John 20:31

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God and prove He is God the Son.

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### Tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to John 2:1-12.

Say • This is the story of Jesus' first miracle. **Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine.** Now that's pretty amazing! Wine was an important part of a wedding celebration. To run out of wine would have been a disaster.

Jesus' mother, Mary, was at a wedding feast in Cana, and Jesus and His disciples were also there. When Mary saw that the wine had run out, what did she do? She told Jesus about it. Surely He could help.

But Jesus' answer is surprising. He said, "What does this have to do with Me? My time has not yet come." At this point in His ministry, not many people knew that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus said that it wasn't time yet for Him to be praised.

Mary believed that Jesus would do what was best, so she told the servants to listen to Him. Jesus told the servants to fill six jars with water. Then they took out some of the water and gave it to the man in charge of the feast.

Jesus had changed the water into wine, and it was very good wine—even better than the first wine.

Say • Turning water into wine was the first of many miracles that Jesus performed. Jesus performed miracles to help people believe that He is the Messiah, the Son of God.

After Jesus turned water into wine, His disciples believed in Him. We can read about Jesus' miracles in the Bible and believe that He has power over everything. Those who trust in Jesus will be forgiven of their sins and have eternal life.

### Key passage

Lead boys and girls to read the key passage together.

Leader • Do you know why we find these stories about Jesus' signs and miracles in the Bible? Our key passage tells us why! It says that these are written so that we may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Let's say our big picture question and answer together before we sing. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God and prove He is God the Son.***

Write the words of John 20:31 on a chalkboard or dry erase board. Guide boys and girls to read the key passage aloud together. Then erase one or two words. Challenge kids to read it again and supply the missing words.

Continue erasing one or two words at a time, allowing kids to fill in the blanks. When you have erased the entire verse, challenge kids to say John 20:31 from memory.

Say • Great work, everyone! In our Bible story today, we learned that **Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine.** Have you ever wondered why God's Word includes this story? Our key passage tells us! God wants us to believe in His Son, Jesus, and have eternal life in Him.

### Pray

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

Leader • Lord Jesus, You are the Son of God. We believe that You are the promised Messiah. You have given us Your Word to help us believe. Help us to trust You and obey You. Amen.

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

### Bible story review & Bible skills

Before small group, drop a few drops of red food color into the bottom of two clear, identical wide-mouthed vases. Set the vases on a table. Position a pitcher of water and 1-cup measure between the vases.

Form two teams of kids. Explain that you will ask review questions about the Bible story. For each correct answer, a player will add 1 cup of water to his team's vase. The team with the most water at the end wins.

Ask a question to team 1. If the team is correct, allow a player to add water to the team's vase. Then ask team 2 a question. If team 1 answers its question incorrectly, allow team 2 to answer before asking team 2 a new question.

What book of the Bible contains the story of Jesus' first miracle? (*the Gospel of John, John 2:1-12*)

Where did this Bible story take place? (*at a wedding feast in Cana, John 2:1*)

Which of Jesus' relatives was at the wedding feast? (*His mother, Mary; John 2:1*)

What went wrong at the feast? (*The wine ran out, John 2:3*)

What did Mary tell the servants to do? (*She said to do whatever Jesus told them to do, John 2:5*)

How many stone water jars were at the feast? (*six, John 2:6*)

What did Jesus tell the servants to do? (*fill the jars with water, John 2:7*)

What happened to the water? (*It had become wine, John 2:9*)

How many miracles had Jesus performed before this? (*none, this was the first; John 2:11*)

**Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God and prove He is God the Son.**

Say • How did the water change when you put it in the vase? (*The food color turned it red.*) **Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine.** This miracle helped the disciples believe in Jesus.

### Activity choice

#### Option 1: Make signs

Distribute paper and markers or crayons. Invite kids to create a sign. Suggest they make a sign for the door of their bedroom or the classroom. Kids might like to design a road sign advertising an upcoming destination or event. Allow kids to work for several minutes. Then invite kids to present their signs to the group. Ask questions about each sign:

What does your sign say?

What does your sign point forward to? (An event? A place?)

What's more important, the sign or what it points to?

Say •Today we are going to hear about one of Jesus' miracles. In fact, this was Jesus' very first miracle on earth. A *miracle* is an unusual event that only God can cause to happen. Jesus' miracles were like signs that pointed to something even greater.

#### Option 2: Water relay

Form two teams of kids. Instruct each team to form a single-file line. Give each player a paper cup. Position a bucket of water at the front of each line and an empty bucket at the end of each line.

Explain that when you say "go," the first player in line should dip her cup into the water and then pour the water into the next player's cup. Players will pass the water down the line from cup to cup. The last player in line will dump the water into the second bucket.

The first player may dip her cup into the bucket again as soon as her cup is empty and pass more water down the line. Teams should continue passing water until the first bucket is empty.

Say •Great! In today's Bible story, Jesus told His disciples to fill six stone jars with water. Each jar held 20 or 30 gallons of water! When we hear the Bible story, we will find out what Jesus did with all that water.

#### Option 3: Is it time yet?

Write a time on an index card and place it facedown. (For example, 5:18 p.m.) Challenge kids to guess the time written on the card.

Call on kids one at a time to guess the time. Depending on their answers, respond, "It's not time yet," or "You're too late," to indicate whether the time on the card is earlier or later than their guess.

If a kid guesses the exact time, shout, "It's time!" Allow the kid to write down another time and play your role.

Say •When Mary told Jesus about the wine running out, Jesus told her, "My time has not yet come."

Jesus meant that it was not yet time for Him to be glorified. Jesus came to earth to do God's plan—to rescue people from sin. **Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine**, but His ministry had just begun. He had a lot more to do!

#### Option 4: Cause and effect science experiments

Place the following combinations of items on the table: effervescent tablet and water, drink mix and water, and baking soda and vinegar. Invite kids to describe what they think will happen when you mix the items.

Invite volunteers to mix the pairs together one at a time. Prompt kids to describe the results. Then explain the reactions.

When the effervescent tablet mixes with water, there is a chemical reaction that releases a lot of carbon dioxide bubbles.

Baking soda and vinegar also react to form carbon dioxide.

The drink mix is dissolved, or evenly distributed, in the water so the water changes color.

Say •Each of these changes can be explained by science, but miracles cannot be explained by science. Miracles are unusual events that only God can cause to happen. ***Jesus performed miracles to glorify God and prove He is God the Son.*** **Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine.** This miracle showed Jesus' glory, and His disciples believed in Him. Jesus has power over everything, and those who believe in Him will have eternal life.