

# John 2:1-11

## “Jesus: Miracle Worker”

**Scripture:** John 2:1-11

**Memory Verse:** John 2:11 *“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”*

**Lesson Focus:** This is the first miracle that Jesus performed and as our memory verse says, it resulted in deeper faith and belief of the disciples. We will walk through this amazing story and emphasize that miracles like these were done primarily for that very purpose: that people would trust and believe in Him as the Son of God.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Wonder and Astonishment, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Make It Real Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Water into Wine

**Starter Activity:** Miracle or Mere Magic Challenge

We will have all of the kids stay in the Summit Room for the starter activity.

We will put several pictures up on the screens and ask the kids whether they think that this picture represents something that is a miracle or something that is not. We will have the kids stand up if they think it is a miracle and remain seated if they think it is not (and maybe have some discussion in between).

The point of this activity is to get the kids thinking about what miracles are and distinguish them from mere magic tricks or natural phenomenon.

Afterwards, we will ask the kids some questions to help them better understand that Jesus was not just a fancy magician doing cool tricks, but actually performing supernatural signs and wonders for a very important purpose.

**John 20:30-31** tells us why John wrote His gospel and included amazing events like what we are going to read today: So that we may believe that Jesus is the Son of God and may have life in His name.

**Psalm 111:2** says the works of the Lord are great and that we should delight in them and study them. Let’s do that now!

## Bible Study:

**John 2:1-2:** Here we have the stage set at a wedding.

Q: How many of you have been to a wedding before? Who has actually been in a wedding as a flower girl or a ring bearer? Why do you like weddings?

Weddings are a very special time! Lots of family and friends are invited, people are usually dressed up \*, and celebration is in the air. God instituted marriage at the beginning of creation and it is special indeed when a man and a woman come together to commit their lives to each other before God. Back in Jesus's time, a wedding celebration often lasted several days and the feast was a HUGE deal.

Q: It says that Jesus' mother was invited to the wedding. Who is this?

We will see that Mary seems to play an important role in the wedding.

Q: Who was Jesus's earthly father? Notice that there is no mention of Joseph here and most experts believe that he had already passed away making Jesus the "man of the house".

Jesus was also invited to the wedding. If you guys get married, invite Jesus to be at the center of your wedding and marriage as well!

**John 2:3:** Uh-oh! They are running out of "refreshments", which back then was wine.

Q: What does it mean to be a good host? \*

Back in Jesus' day showing hospitality, or being a good host, was very, very important. So if they ran out of refreshments at this wedding, it would be a HUGE embarrassment bringing tremendous shame upon the bride and groom and their families.

Mary, it seems, was involved in the wedding and was looking to Jesus to help resolve the refreshment problem.

**John 2:4-5:** Jesus's response sounds a little strange to us, but He did not mean any disrespect. He tenderly addresses women this same way in many other parts of the Bible (i.e. John 19:26, John 20:15).

It does seem like in v. 4 that He was reminding Mary of something really important though: That He is here for a purpose and that miracles, signs, and wonders are done on His, and only His, timing!

Q: Have you ever prayed to God to do something big, maybe even miraculous, but nothing happened?

We must remember that God does things and answers prayer on **His timing**. God is not a gumball machine up in the sky that we put a “prayer quarter” into and get what we want. He is the King! However, He is still in the business of doing miracles and we should come before Him boldly asking Him to intervene.

While we aren’t exactly sure what Mary wanted Jesus to do, in v. 5 it is clear that she trusted that He would take care of the problem.

**John 2:6:** This verse describes some huge waterpots that the Jewish people used for purification.

Q: Who has parents or grandparents that tell you to wash your hands before meals? Why do they have you do that?

The Jewish people were extremely particular about washing before and after meals and these waterpots were there to assist all of the guests with this purification.

**John 2:7-9:** First, Jesus says to fill the pots with water. But then He has them take “some” out and take it to the master host.

**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a bucket or some non-transparent container and reenact this scene in front of the kids. For 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, you can actually use the bathrooms to fill the water and bring back the container. For 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, just bring the bucket pre-filled. Then dip a cup into the bucket of water and hand it to someone who will “pretend” it is wine (maybe a leader).

Q: How would you explain what happened here? (let the kids chew on this a little bit!)

A: You cannot explain it with science or natural laws! That is why this is a miracle. This is not a magic trick, but a supernatural work of God!

**John 2:10:** Here we see the astonishment of the master host who can’t believe how good this wine actually is.

So not only did Jesus turn water into wine, but He turned it into the best wine of all! Jesus makes everything better!

One thing that is odd about this whole story is how quietly this all took place. From the text, it appears that only Mary and the servants who had drawn the water knew that a miracle had just taken place. The wedding seems to have continued uninterrupted!

When we think of miracles, we typically think of sensational and spectacular. While what happened here is certainly spectacular, it all happened so privately. No drawn crowds, no selfies with Jesus posted on Instagram, etc!

Q: Why do you think Jesus did the miracle this way?

A: Jesus knows that we are drawn to the sensational and the spectacular. And so we end up focusing on the miracles themselves **instead of the Person doing the miracles!** And

if we look at our next verse, we see that this turning of water to wine had the desired result of sharpening the focus of the disciples upon Him and not the miracle itself.

**John 2:11:** This was His first miracle and it resulted in His disciples believing in Him!

If you look at miracles throughout Scripture, what you often see is they are God's way of getting our attention off of this world and onto Him!

**Read Exodus 14:31:** This is the final verse closing the amazing account of the 10 plagues in Egypt, the freeing of God's people, and the parting of the Red Sea. Notice what came first: the people saw the works of God (miracles)! **Then** they feared God and believed in God!

In the same way here, Jesus first gets our attention with signs and wonders, and then we believe in Him!

**Key Point:** Jesus didn't tell people to "just have faith" that what He was saying was true. Anyone can say that He is God! He used signs and miracles – acts not possible by someone without God's power – to get people's attention and to prove that He was the Son of God.

Q: What was the ultimate miracle that proved to His followers and to us that Jesus was who He said He was?

A: The resurrection! Jesus did things only God could do to prove He really was God!

Remember **John 20:30-31** that we mentioned at the beginning explaining why John wrote this gospel?

So that our eyes would be opened in wonder at Jesus as God and Lord.

So that we would draw nearer to Jesus in faith, trust, and obedience.

So that we would give our lives to Jesus to live them His way, and not our way.

# Bring It Home

**Lesson Theme: “Jesus: Miracle Worker”**

**Scripture: John 2:1-11**

**Memory Verse:** John 2:11 *“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”*

**Teachers/Parents:** We talked about how special it was that Jesus performed His first miracle at a quiet, humble village wedding. Marriage between a man and a woman is something that God gave us at the beginning and Jesus, by attending this wedding, shows He delights in marriage. Share a positive wedding experience with your kids, whether your own or someone else’s, and explain why it is such an unforgettable memory.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) **In John 2:3**, we talked about how important it was to show hospitality in the culture of Jesus’s day. **Read 1 Peter 4:9**. What does this verse suggest about how we should view hospitality as Christians?
- 2) Is there anyone in particular that you could show better hospitality toward now that you understand it is something God expects Christians to do?
- 3) We had some discussion on miracles and how they are different from magic tricks and also witchcraft. Miracles come from God and reveal and honor Him. Magic tricks are just illusions done by humans for entertainment. Witchcraft draws upon demonic power, but are not to be confused with miracles which are from God. **Read Acts 19:11-20** showing some of these differences. In v. 11, who was the source of the miracles? And in v. 20, who triumphed in these events that even involved demonic power?
- 4) **In John 2:4**, Jesus mentions that His hour had not yet come. One thing that is peculiar about this whole story is how quietly the miracle seemed to have happened. **Read Mark 1:40-45** and notice Jesus’s command in v. 44 and the reaction in v. 45. Why do you think Jesus often did His miracles quietly?
- 5) **In John 2:11**, we see that one result of this miracle was that Jesus’s glory was manifested or revealed. **Read 2 Peter 1:16** where Peter says straight up He saw Jesus’s glory revealed. People today mistake biblical miracles for fairy tales. How do Peter’s words in this verse give us confidence these aren’t just fairy tales?
- 6) In class we talked about how God performed miracles so that people would believe in Him and trust in Him. We don’t have a completely blind faith, but one based on God’s amazing works recorded in the Scriptures. **Read 1 Kings 18:36-39** for one example. What came first: miracles or faith?