

LESSON 7

The Wedding Feast

JOHN 2:1-12



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS IS THE CREATOR

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read John 2:1–12 from the Scriptures or read story 85, “The Wedding Feast,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Set Up a Classroom Banquet
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ food for a banquet table (something not too sweet, like crackers)
 - ✓ drink cups and plates
 - ✓ juice enough for half the class and water for the rest
 - ✓ pitcher of water
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Turn the Water into Wine
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ clear glass or plastic pitcher
 - ✓ large clear glass jar full of water
 - ✓ wine glass
 - ✓ small gravy ladle
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Color a Picture
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 7—one for each child
 - ✓ markers or crayons
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
The Qualities of God
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Mary trusted her son—Mary’s faith and confidence in Jesus was displayed in the way she approached her son for help. Weddings in Jesus’ day lasted seven days. It would be a terrible embarrassment to the host to run out of wine. So Mary called upon her son for help. Jesus initially objected, saying that his time had not yet come. But Mary, persistent and full of faith, simply directed the servants to do whatever Jesus said. Mary didn’t demand or tell Jesus what to do; she simply entrusted the problem to him. In a similar way, God honors our faith in him and our persistent prayers. Jesus honored his mother’s request. By doing so, he begins his supernatural ministry and reveals that he is no ordinary man.

Jesus creates wine from water—Although Jesus initially told his mother that his time had not yet come, he decided to step out in power to honor his mother, rescue the wedding feast, and give a powerful picture of his divinity to those closest to him. Colossians 1:16 tells us that Jesus is the Creator, and that through him all things were made. Jesus demonstrated his power to create by changing the water into wine. When the master of the feast tasted the wine, he was impressed with the quality. Wine normally takes weeks or months or even years to be aged to perfection—that is, unless it is miraculously made!

Jesus had a family—Mary and Joseph had children after Jesus was born. Jesus had younger half brothers and sisters! One of Jesus’ brothers, James, became a leader in the early church in Jerusalem. Most people attribute the letter of James to him. Joseph is notably absent in the life of Jesus at the wedding. It is likely that Joseph died at some point prior to this, leaving Mary a widow with children. Jesus, as the eldest son, would have had a special responsibility to care for his mother. He carried this responsibility all the way to the cross, where he charged the disciple John to care for Mary as his own mother (John 19:27).

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

In response to the need for wine, Jesus told his mother, "My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4). Jesus understood the hour was approaching when he would miraculously provide the wine of the new covenant, in his blood, on the cross. Jesus was already planning to offer men the wine they could not provide for themselves. But that hour had not yet come.

With a demonstration of his power in turning the water to wine, Jesus' ministry was about to begin. And once started, it would move ever closer to the cross. It is no accident that Jesus' first miracle speaks powerfully of the cross and the gospel. He wanted it that way. Jesus came to offer mankind the wine of his blood for the forgiveness of sins. He came for their participation in the great wedding feast yet to come. The new wine was for their great joy. Mary's talk of the need for wine, at a wedding, pointed interestingly to the climax of Jesus' mission—a wedding feast where Jesus would have a banquet with his bride, the church. Yet, while Jesus knew that the hour was coming when his blood would be shed and the greater miracle of salvation would be accomplished, he was not eager to hasten that day. His demonstration of power was largely hidden at the wedding feast, with only a few people aware of the miracle. Soon, Jesus' ministry would explode on the scene as he demonstrated the power to heal the sick and drive out demons. It wouldn't take long for the religious rulers to despise him and find a way to take his life.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 2:1–12 from the Scriptures or read story 85, "The Wedding Feast," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Set Up a Classroom Banquet

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ food for a banquet table (something not too sweet, like crackers)
- ✓ drink cups and plates
- ✓ juice enough for half the class and water for the rest
- ✓ pitcher of water

Set up a table with the plates. Tell the class when they come in that you are going to have a class treat. Pass out the crackers. Start passing out juice to the children, but when you run out, make a big deal, saying that you can't believe you ran out. Pretend to be very embarrassed. Then offer to give the rest water.

Ask the children to share how they feel that some got juice and others did not. Connect this predicament with the story from the Scriptures. Provide juice for the rest of the class once the point is made.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

Turn the Water into Wine

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ clear glass or plastic pitcher
- ✓ large clear glass jar full of water
- ✓ wine glass
- ✓ small gravy ladle

Tell the class that you are going to recreate the trick that Jesus did at the wedding. Show the class the water jar and the empty wine glass. Tell them that you think Jesus' secret is in the way it is poured from the jar. Pour a little from the jar into the wine glass and say, "WATER INTO WINE!!" Pretend to smell it and swish a bit in your mouth. Tell the class that all you have is water and it did not work. Try again several times with more and more dramatic incantations.

Finally, realize that the secret must be in the ladle. The jars at the feast would have been too large to pick up. Reason that the servants must have used a ladle to get the water from the jars into their wine glasses. Try again and then ask the class why they think you can't do what Jesus did.

Use this exercise to help the children see that while Jesus was a man, he was more than a man: he was God.

Turn to Genesis 1 and read through the account of creation. Help the children to see that God could create the whole earth and everything in it, making a little water from wine was nothing to God—Jesus.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 7—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What did the water in the jars turn into?**
(Jesus changed the water to wine. Have the children color the liquid coming out of the jar red to represent wine.)

- **What do you think the servants thought when they discovered the water had been turned to wine?**
(They would have been surprised and amazed. This was the first miracle that Jesus performed. Jesus performed miracles to show that he was indeed the Son of God and not just an ordinary man.)

- **What do you think the disciples with Jesus thought about this?**
(The Bible tells us at the end of this story that the disciples put their faith in him.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

The Qualities of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

This exercise is designed to help the children see how Jesus' miracles and wonders help us to see that he is God. Have the children give you suggestions from the Bible for miracles and wonders that show the following:

- **Jesus is the Creator; e.g., he turns water into wine**
(John 2:7-9).
- **Jesus rules creation; e.g., the wind and waves obey his commands**
(Mark 4:39).
- **Jesus is not limited by space and time; e.g., Jesus came through a locked door**
(John 20:19).
- **Jesus is not limited by death; e.g., Jesus rose from the dead**
(Matthew 28:6).
- **Jesus is the giver of life; e.g., Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave**
(John 12:1).
- **Jesus is all-knowing; e.g., Jesus knew the life story of the woman at the well**
(John 4:29).

The children may come up with additional examples that are not listed. If you have time you may want to turn to some or all of these examples.

LESSON 7 - THE WEDDING FEAST

