

Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

John 2:1-12

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.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Enough rolls of toilet paper to distribute to groups of 4-5 children in your class.

An empty, one-gallon milk container.

A clear glass or cup, a pitcher with water and a level pouring surface.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

"Dress the Bride" Game

Divide the class into groups of 4 or 5 children.

Have each group take a roll of toilet paper and dress one of their members as a "bride" with the toilet paper.

When each group is done, judge the best or most creative "bride". Explain that today's lesson is a story about a special wedding ceremony that Jesus attended. It was also the time when Jesus performed His very first miracle. We will be learning today that **Jesus is the joy of our salvation.**

LESSON TIME!

Jesus had left the ordinary things of His life in Nazareth to begin His extraordinary ministry. He had identified Himself with us and shown His willingness to take our sin upon Himself in His baptism by John. After He was baptized, He went into the desert for forty days to fast and pray. Satan came and tempted Him in His weakness, but Jesus used scripture to combat the attacks of the enemy, giving us an example of what to do when we are tempted. Who remembers what we are to do from last week?

Now, Jesus will do His first miracle. Do you know what a miracle is? It is when God intervenes in a circumstance by doing something special, and extraordinary, something supernatural! Let's see what He did.

JOHN 2:1-2

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

Have you ever been to a wedding? Are the people there happy or sad? They are not sad! A wedding is a very joyful occasion. Jesus, His disciples, and His mother, Mary, had all been invited to a wedding in Cana. Can you imagine how blessed it would be to have Jesus at a wedding? When we grow up and marry someone who loves Jesus, our weddings will be joyous because Jesus is present!

Just as a side note, when we grow up, it is important that we ask Jesus to help us make the decision of whom we will marry when we grow up. God has a plan for each of our lives, and we need to make sure that our husband or wife is a godly person who loves Jesus. We never want to marry an unbeliever because the Bible tells us not to, and it will only cause problems in our life. When we have Jesus

at the center of our relationships in life, life will be filled with joy and blessing.

JOHN 2:3

And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

What disappointing thing happened at this wedding? The wine ran out. Whenever there is a celebration or party, a host does not want the food or beverages to run out; he wants his guests to have plenty to eat and drink. In Jesus day, wine was the common drink of celebration. Their wine was not strong drink like wine is today. It was just fermented enough to kill any germs in the grape juice that could upset the guests' stomachs or make them sick.

In Jesus' day, they did not have ways to clean water, but the weak wine they drank was safe because it was free from germs. Even today, in many countries like Mexico, India, and parts of Africa, the water is not good to drink; it can make a person very sick. Most of the water we drink is cleaned with chemicals to take out harmful germs that make us sick.

At a wedding in those days, the finest quality wine would be served to the guests first. If that ran out, an inferior wine would be served. At this wedding in Cana, all of the wine was gone. The master of the feast would be embarrassed and maybe even upset about that because wine was a symbol of the joy that flows at a wedding celebration. He wanted to keep the wine flowing.

Jesus' mother, Mary, noticed that the wine had run out, and she went and told Jesus. She did not entirely understand what Jesus would do as the Messiah, but she knew that He was special. She wanted Him to reveal who He was. As His mother, she must have longed for the hour when everyone would know that the Messiah had finally come. Perhaps she thought this would be the place and time everyone would finally know who Jesus really was.

JOHN 2:4

Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

When Jesus called His mother "Woman," it was a word of intense tenderness and respect. It was like saying "My lady." He addressed her with a deep sense of loving respect. Can you imagine them talking, just the two of them off in a shaded courtyard, with voices lowered? She knew He was God's promised One. Jesus was telling her, "My dear Mother, this is not the hour or place to reveal who I Am. There is still much to do before that time comes." Perhaps He kissed her cheek. I am sure He lovingly looked into her eyes, knowing all she had in her heart. She understood that He would still produce new wine, but it would be done quietly, privately, without big fanfare and without full revelation of who He was.

JOHN 2:5

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Mary quietly and confidently pointed the servants to her beloved Son and said, "Do what He tells you." She submitted to Him.

She did not try to give the servants a list of Jesus' qualifications. When Jesus tells us to do something, we only need to obey. He always knows what He is doing. He knows how to keep the wine of His joy flowing. When we ask Him into our lives and hearts by simple faith in His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus becomes the joy of our salvation

It is His desire that our lives overflow with His joy. Do you remember that joy is one of the evidences of the fruit of His Spirit in our lives? Joy is better than happiness. Happiness comes and goes depending on what is happening around us. If things in our

life are all good, we feel happy. Joy is different and is far better. It is the fruit of the Spirit that abides deep inside our hearts because we have Jesus there. Even bad circumstances cannot destroy the rich, deep joy of the Lord in our hearts and lives. **Jesus is the joy of our salvation.**

Joy or Happiness?

Describe for the class some situations that represent "happiness" and some that represent "joy", for example:

- 1) Going to an amusement park (happiness).
- 2) A birthday party (happiness).
- 3) Having patience while waiting for God to work in your life (joy).

Have some of the children give examples of "happiness" and "joy".

JOHN 2:6-7

Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

These are wonderful verses. Jesus sees some vessels; six water pots of stone that could hold twenty to thirty gallons each. Think of how big and heavy a gallon of milk is. These vessels could hold more than twenty of those gallons of milk. There were six of these vessels. Wow! He was about to make a lot of wine, and all He was using were six ordinary vessels full of water (bring an empty gallon milk container to serve as a visual aide).

Jesus likes to do that. He takes our ordinary lives, just as He did those vessels, and fills them to the brim with His gracious Holy

Spirit. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we can be used, like those vessels, to keep Jesus' joy flowing over everyone we meet. Jesus delights in using ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31 says,
For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

that no flesh should glory in His presence.

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption;

that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

We see that it pleases Jesus to use the weak, the insignificant, and the simple. He does a miracle and turns the ordinary into the extraordinary. He does that with us. We are just empty vessels until Jesus comes and fills us. **Jesus is the joy of our salvation.** He can take our weak and simple lives and manifest or show His power through us. Nehemiah 8:10 tells us, "the joy of the Lord is your strength." That is one way people are drawn to Him. They see

His joy in our lives and want to know where it comes from. We can then share with them that **Jesus is the joy of our salvation.**

When Jesus told the servants to fill the vessels with water, did they fill them halfway? No, they filled them to the brim. They may not have understood what Jesus was doing, but they obeyed Him and got to be used by Jesus to bring joy to others. Do you know what a brim is? It's more than to the top.

My Cup Is Full and Running Over

Set a clear glass or cup on a level surface.

Fill the glass or cup to the brim with water from a pitcher, allowing the water to "dome" over the top.

Explain to the children that the Lord fills us to "overflowing." Give the surface a bump, and illustrate that when our lives are bumped, the contents of our lives spill out. If we are filled with the Spirit of God, it is His Spirit that "spills out" when we are bumped. Playfully splash a little water on the children near by, and explain that when the Spirit "spills out" of us, others are touched by the Lord.

JOHN 2:8-10

And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

After they filled the water pots to the brim, Jesus told them to take some to the master of the feast to taste. Did the master of the feast know where the wine had come from? No! It was not time for everyone to know about Jesus' identity. His mother knew, and His disciples and the servants knew. But none of the other guests knew what Jesus had done. When the master of the feast tasted the wine, he said it was the best wine of the feast.

The wine is a picture of the joy we have in Christ. His joy is the best joy we will ever know. At most weddings, the best wine is served first and the inferior wines next, but the master of the feast said Jesus' wine was best. His wine was better than the best wine man could provide.

That is how it is with Jesus. Our lives keep getting better and better when He is in them. That does not mean hard circumstances will not come into our lives. They will, but since **Jesus is the joy of our salvation**, our lives grow richer and better. He keeps the good wine of joy flowing. When Jesus is in our lives and we abide in Him and ask Him to fill us with His Spirit often, life gets better and better, because **Jesus is the joy of our salvation**.

JOHN 2:11-12

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

We find here that Jesus did this miracle as a sign. He made His glory shine forth just enough so that his disciples would see and believe. The glory of His divinity shone through the miracle of turning water into wine. This was important for His disciples.

They would travel with Him and learn from Him. Here at this wedding in Cana, their faith in Jesus was strengthened. They had caught a glimpse of His glory, and they believed in Him.

Jesus was able to share in the joy of a wedding, while at the same time letting us know that He is the true source of joy. His deep, abiding joy in the Spirit is intended for us because **Jesus is the joy of our salvation.**

If you find that you are lacking His joy, it may be because you have not asked Him to fill you or refill you. We need to come as an empty vessel and simply ask for Him to fill our lives to the brim and show His glory through us to those around us.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Have the children pretend to be in a wedding as attendants, flower girls and ring bearers, while you hum "Here Comes the Bride."

Talk about the meaning of the word "joy." Make paper plate puppets by gluing two paper plates together with a tongue depressor in between. On one side draw a happy face, and on the other, draw a sad face. Have the children put on their happy faces when you say the word joy. Explain that Jesus is the source of our joy.

Sing the song, "Running Over," as a class:

Running over, running over,
My cup is full and running over.
Since the Lord saved me,
I'm as happy as can be.
My cup is full and running over.

Explain to the children that Jesus loves us, and He uses us, even though we are weak, because His strength is made perfect in weakness. Lead them in the song "Jesus Loves Me," emphasizing the line, "I am weak, but He is strong."

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the great joy that is ours in Christ Jesus. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.