

# 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 our lesson today 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. Jesus, showing His willingness to take our sin upon Him so that we could be forgiven through His death, burial, and resurrection let John baptize Him. After He was baptized, He went into the desert for forty days to fast and pray. Satan came and tempted Him, but Jesus used that to show us 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's 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? That's right, a wedding is a very joyful occasion. Jesus and His disciples and His mother, Mary, had all been invited to a wedding in Cana. Can you imagine how blessed a wedding is to have Jesus in attendance? When we grow up and marry someone who loves Jesus, our weddings are joyous because Jesus is present!

Just as a small side note, it is important that we learn that as we grow up and choose who we will marry and spend the rest of our life with, that we invite Jesus to help us in that decision. 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

because it will only cause problems in our life. When we have Jesus at the center of our relationships in life, our lives 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 doesn't 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 wasn't 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 didn't have ways to treat 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 isn't good to drink; it can make a person very sick. Most of the water we drink is treated with chemicals to take out harmful germs to prevent us from getting 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 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 didn't understand all Jesus was about to do as the Messiah, but she knew that He was special and she wanted Him to reveal who He was by providing wine. 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's like saying "My lady." He addressed her with a deep sense of loving respect. Can you see them talking off in a shaded courtyard, just the two of them, with voices lowered? She knows He is God's promised One. He is telling her "My dear Mother, this is not the hour or place where everyone will know my purpose and position in God. There is much still to do before that time comes." Perhaps He kissed her cheek. I'm 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."

Here, 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's doing. He always 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, then **Jesus is 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 upon what's happening around us. If things in our life are all good, we feel happy. Joy is different and is far better. It is a part of the fruit of the Spirit that abides deep inside when Jesus lives in us. Even circumstances can't 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 a gallon of milk, then think of twenty gallons of milk; that's a lot! Multiply those twenty gallons times six. Wow! He was about to make a lot of wine, and all He was using were six ordinary vessels of

water (bring an empty gallon milk container to serve as a visual aide).

Jesus likes to do that. Just as Jesus can fill and use six empty, ordinary water pots, He can fill ordinary people with His Spirit and use their lives for His purposes. 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, the simple. He turns the ordinary into the extraordinary. He does that with us. We are just empty vessels until Jesus comes and fills us and then **Jesus is the joy of our salvation**. He can take our

weak and simple lives and manifest or show His power through us. That's one way people are drawn to Him. They see our lives and know we must be some kind of miracle and He gets the glory and we get His joy because **Jesus is the joy of our salvation.**

Jesus told the servants to fill the vessels with water and they did. They did not fill them halfway, but up to the brim. 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, He is who "spills out" of our life. 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 in our lives.

### **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!"**



Jesus told them to do something else then. Now they must take the wine to the master of the feast to taste. Did the master of the feast know where the wine had come from? No! It wasn't time for everyone to know about Jesus' identity. His mother knew and His disciples knew and the servants knew. All the other wedding guests must have thought that this wine had just been stored somewhere else. When the master of the feast tasted the wine, he said something like, "Wow! This is the best wine I've ever tasted."

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

That's how it is with Jesus. When He is truly in our lives, our lives get better and better. That doesn't mean hard circumstances won't come into our lives. They will, but because **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 who He really was shone through the wonder of water turning into wine. This was important for His disciples.

They would travel with Him and learn from Him. Here at this wedding in Cana, they gained complete confidence in Him; they had seen His glory and they believed in Him.

Jesus had shared in the joy of a wedding and at the same time communicated that He is the true maker of joy, better than any party or earthly celebration. 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 haven't 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 Popsicle stick handle in between. On one side draw a happy face and on the other a sad. 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 that He uses us even though we are weak, because His strength is manifest 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.