

# JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE

JOHN 2



**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 3:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus changed water into wine, revealing His glory and showing that He is God. Like the disciples, we can believe in Jesus. Those who trust in Jesus are saved from their sin and changed to become more like Jesus.

**STORY POINT:** Jesus changed water into wine and showed His glory.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana reveals His power as the Messiah and His glory as the one and only Son of God. Jesus continued to draw people to Himself as He stepped into His public ministry, though He continued to move only in accordance with the will of His Father in heaven.

The wedding in Cana served as the backdrop to Jesus' first miraculous act as Messiah. At this celebration, He met a need that was far greater than providing mere beverages to thirsty guests; rather, He selectively revealed His glory to those who were aware a miracle had taken place. When Jesus asked His mother, "What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?", He revealed that, even though Jesus is worthy of all praise, it was not the right time for Him to be publicly fully glorified and worshiped. Jesus was submissive to His Father's timing in all things.

Jesus transformed basic water into the most spectacular wine of the night. This was an even greater feat than Moses sweetening the Israelites' bitter water in Exodus 15. Christ demonstrated to onlookers that He is greater than even the mightiest prophets of the Old Testament. Jesus revealed His glory as the one and only Son of God, the One worthy of faith.

Even greater than the miracle of turning water into wine, Jesus has the power to turn sinners into saints (believers), just as He led the disciples to believe in Him by faith (verse 11). This week, help kids see that Jesus has the power to bring us into a right relationship with the Father and mold us into His image as we continue to trust and obey.



### PREPARE

#### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



### WELCOME

#### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



### LEARN

#### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



### LOVE

#### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



### LIVE

#### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



## PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- "Mystery Name" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- small tablecloth or blanket
- special object

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- things to taste (5-10 candies, fruits, etc.)
- Allergy Alert
- blindfolds, 2
- tablecloth
- dry erase board and dry erase markers



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- "Jesus' First Miracle" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- celebration music (optional)
- wedding decorations (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- "Unit 21, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- "Central Asian Peoples" video
- "Central Asia Map" printable

#### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "No Sin in Him (1 John 3:5)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- art supplies



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- white crayons
- white watercolor paper
- watercolor paints
- brushes
- cups of water
- plastic tablecloths
- paper towels

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- brown paper or brown paper bags
- craft dowels or straws, 2 per kid

#### Reflection and Prayer

- Bible story coloring page



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Have you ever seen something amazing happen? How did you respond? Did you tell other people about what you saw?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Mystery Name” on the activity page.

**SAY** “Today we will see how Jesus performed His first miracle. This miracle revealed His glory and showed His disciples that He is God. I’m looking forward to sharing this story with you!”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: HIDDEN OBJECT

Before kids enter the room, place a special object on a table at the front of the room and cover with a tablecloth or blanket. Explain that you have placed something very special on the table. Ask kids to think about what the object might be. Invite them to shout out their guesses. Once kids have had a chance to guess, ask them how they can know if any of their guesses are correct. Allow them to share their answers; then explain that the only way they can know if they are correct is to uncover the object. Uncover the object and reveal what was hidden under the cloth.

**SAY** “Today we will learn about Jesus’ first miracle. **JESUS CHANGED WATER INTO WINE AND SHOWED HIS GLORY.** Before this, Jesus had not yet revealed His glory, but the time had come for others to see that He is God.”

#### OPTION 2: TASTE TEST



Before this activity, place 5-10 foods on a table in the front of the room and cover them with a tablecloth. Ask for two kids to volunteer to be taste testers. Invite the two volunteers to come to the front and put on their blindfolds. Once kids are blindfolded, uncover the foods, revealing them to the rest of the kids. Distribute a sample of the first food to each of the taste testers. Challenge them to taste the food and then guess what food they tasted. Direct each taste tester to whisper their answer to you so you can write their answer on the board. Continue until the taste testers have sampled all the foods and made their guesses. Then, reveal the correct answers and see how many of their guesses were correct.

**SAY** “Today we will see that **JESUS CHANGED WATER INTO WINE AND SHOWED HIS GLORY.** The wine Jesus made tasted better than the best wine that had been served at the wedding.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

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### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Hi, kids! I am so glad you’re here! My name is [your name], and today I get to share a true story from God’s Word with you. If you have a Bible, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.] During Jesus’ ministry on earth, He performed many miracles, but today we get to learn about His very first miracle where **JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE AND SHOWED HIS GLORY**. I am looking forward to sharing this important story with you. ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “ As we study God’s Word together, we like to talk about a big picture question and answer that helps us focus on a truth from the Bible. Our big picture question for the next few weeks is: **Did Jesus ever sin?** The answer to that question is: **No, Jesus never sinned.** Even though Jesus came to earth and lived as a human, He was not like other people who are full of sin and separated from God. Jesus was fully human, but at the same time, He is fully God. He lived a perfect life so that He could save people from their sins. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ Jesus continued His earthly ministry by performing His first miracle that showed His disciples and others that He is God. **JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE AND SHOWED HIS GLORY.** Before this miracle, Jesus had not revealed His glory, but the time had come for people to worship and praise Him for who He is—the Son of God, sent to save people from sin. ”



## LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to John 2. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus’ First Miracle.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### JESUS’ FIRST MIRACLE

“Jesus, His mother Mary, and His disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. **When the wine ran out, Jesus’ mother told Him, “They don’t have any wine.”**

“What does this concern have to do with me?” Jesus asked. “My time has not yet come.” Jesus meant that it was not yet time for Him to be glorified, or to be worshiped and praised.

**Mary told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”**

Now **six stone water jars were at the wedding** for religious washing. Each jar held 20 or 30 gallons. **Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water.** The servants filled the jars to the top. **Then Jesus said, “Now draw some water out and give it to headwaiter.” The servants did as Jesus said.**

When the headwaiter tasted **the water that had now been turned into wine**, he didn’t know where the wine came from—but the servants knew. **The headwaiter called the groom and said, “Usually, people set out the best wine first and save the poor-tasting wine for later in the party. But you have kept this amazing wine until the end!”**

**This was the first miracle Jesus performed.** He revealed his glory, and His disciples believed in Him. After this, Jesus, His mother, and His disciples went to Capernaum and stayed there a few days.

Christ Connection: Jesus changed water into wine, revealing His glory and showing that He is God. Like the disciples, we can believe in Jesus. Those who trust in Jesus are saved from their sin and changed to become more like Jesus. ”

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “Jesus, His mother, Mary, and His disciples went to a wedding in Cana. While they were there, the host of the party ran into a problem. He had run out of wine, which was a very important part of the wedding feast. The time had come for Jesus to perform His first miracle. Jesus instructed the servants to fill the jars with water and then take some to the master of the feast. When the master tasted the liquid from the jar, what did he taste? [Allow responses.] He tasted delicious wine, but he did not know where it came from. Jesus had turned the water into wine—

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Set the scene:** Display wedding decorations and set up a table like a feast is about to happen. Invite the kids to join you in this area as you tell the story

**Celebrate with music:** Play upbeat instrumental music in the background while you tell the story. Weddings are times of celebration and joy and are often filled with music.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

wine that was better than the best wine they had served at the beginning of the wedding feast.

**JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE AND SHOWED HIS GLORY.** What was the disciples' response when they saw Jesus turn the water into wine? [Allow responses.] Through this miracle the disciples realized that Jesus is God, and they believed Him. Jesus showed that He has power over everything.

Jesus' disciples responded to His glory by believing in Him. As we read the Bible and learn more about Jesus' ministry, power, and works, we see Jesus for who He is—the Savior of the world. That leaves us with a choice; we can trust Him as our Lord and Savior, or we can continue in unbelief. ”

### 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY “ JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE AND SHOWED HIS GLORY.** The miracles Jesus performed show that He was not just a man; He is the Son of God. He came to earth to save us from our sin. If you would like to know more about trusting Jesus as your Savior, please come and talk to me or another adult leader. We would be happy to share more about this with you. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 21, Session 1” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How do you know if something is a miracle or just a coincidence?
2. What other miracles that Jesus did do you remember?



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Show the “Central Asia Map” printable and explain that Central Asia is section of a continent called Asia.

**SAY** “Most Central Asian churches have been started in the last 30 years. Less than 0.01 percent of Central Asians are followers of Jesus.”

Show the “Central Asian Peoples” video.

Explain that a church from Georgia recently sent a missions team to Central Asia. The pastor told the team that in Asian culture, it’s often effective for Christians to build relationships with people before they share the gospel (good news about Jesus). Men of the missions team were encouraged to build one-on-one relationships with Asian men. Women would work as a small group to build relationships with the Asian women. The group hiked, laughed, ate meals, and talked with Central Asian college students. When one Asian student took one man from the Georgia group to tour an Orthodox church, the man from Georgia thought it was a perfect opening for him to tell the Asian man how this church was different from his church in Georgia. But the Asian student stopped him and said, “I don’t know you well enough to talk about that.” The Georgia man realized the need for the Asian people to learn more about Jesus through the actions of Christians first, and once there is a mutual trust, they can then use their words to tell the people about Jesus.

Pray for the missionaries in Central Asia as they find ways to tell the people about Jesus.

#### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 John 3:5 together.

**SAY** “Jesus came to live a perfect life on the earth and die on the cross to take away our sins.”

Direct kids to sit around tables. Place art supplies in the center of each table. Distribute a piece of paper to each kid. Challenge kids to use the art supplies to write and illustrate the key passage, thinking about the meaning of the words of the passage. Once kids have finished, invite them to come to the front and share their illustrations with the group. Display in your room or in the hallway.

Lead kids to sing “No Sin in Him (1 John 3:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

#### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to come to earth to live a perfect life, displaying His power and glory as God. Help us respond to Jesus by trusting in Him for salvation. We love You, Lord. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

## LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to John 2. Explain the book of John is one of the four books of the Bible that record details of Jesus' earthly ministry. It was written by John, one of the twelve disciples.

Consider pointing out the location of Cana (D5) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 2:9-10, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** “ **JESUS CHANGED THE WATER INTO WINE AND SHOWED HIS GLORY.** When the master of the feast tasted the wine, he was amazed. He was puzzled why the groom would save the very best wine for last. Jesus not only changed water into wine, but He changed it into the best quality wine. This shows us that everything God does is good and better than we could imagine. Sometimes when we face an unexpected hardship or problem, we come up with ways to try to fix it. But, if we turn those problems over to God and trust Him to work, we can be confident that He will do what is right and good. His plans are better than anything we could create on our own. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What does Jesus' first miracle show us about Him? ”

By turning water into wine, Jesus revealed His glory and showed that He has power over all things. We also see His love and care for people by providing for them at the wedding feast.

| **SAY** “ How should we respond when we see God's power displayed? ”

As we read the Bible and learn more about who God is, we should respond by worshiping and praising Him. He is the all-powerful Creator. He is worthy of our praise and our trust.

| **SAY** “ What does it mean to believe in Jesus? ”

Believing in Jesus means we believe that He is God's Son who was sent to save people from sin by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. When we believe in Him, we trust Him as our Savior and Lord, accept that His sacrifice on the cross for our sins is enough, and follow where He leads.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: JESUS REVEALED HIS GLORY

Before this activity, use a white crayon to write the word *glory* in large letters across the center of each piece of watercolor paper. Invite kids to sit around tables covered with plastic tablecloths. Distribute watercolor paints, brushes, watercolor paper, and a paper towel to each kid. Place several water cups around each table. Challenge kids to use the watercolors to paint all over their paper to reveal a special word from today's story. Walk around and assist kids who need help using watercolor paint. Once all kids have finished painting, invite them to shout out the word they see in the center of their papers.

**SAY** “ In our story today, we learned that **JESUS CHANGED WATER INTO WINE AND SHOWED HIS GLORY.** Through this miracle, Jesus' disciples saw that He is God. Anyone who trusts Jesus is saved from their sin and changed to become more like Him. ”

##### OPTION 2: STORY SCROLL

Invite kids to sit around tables. Distribute brown paper or a paper bag and two dowels or straws to each kid. Tape or glue a straw or dowel to the top and bottom of the paper. Demonstrate how to roll the paper into a scroll then walk around the room, assisting kids in rolling up their scrolls. Challenge kids to draw pictures of today's story on their scrolls. Remind them of some important scenes in today's story and discuss how they could draw those scenes. Once kids have finished drawing, invite them to share their drawings with the rest of the group.

**SAY** “ I hope you will take your scroll home with you and share the story of Jesus' first miracle with someone this week. ”

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.