



UNIT 22 | SESSION 1

# JESUS' SECOND MIRACLE

JOHN 4

**KEY PASSAGE:** Daniel 4:3

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We all are dead in our sins, but Jesus provided the way to save us by dying for our sin and rising again. Everyone who repents and trusts in Him is saved from death and will live forever with God.

**STORY POINT:** Jesus healed an official's son.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' first recorded miracle of turning water into wine was immediately observable to His disciples and the servants who drew from the jars. His second miracle, however, required that a man trust Him without being able to see instantaneous proof that Jesus was at work.

A royal official found Jesus and humbly begged for a miracle only Jesus could provide—to come heal his son who was sick and close to death. Given the urgency of the man's request, Jesus' initial response—"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe"—may sound callous; however, Jesus was providing an opportunity for the man to see Him as more than just a prophet or healer, but as Savior and Lord. Did this official believe that Jesus is who He said He is, or was the official simply seeking signs and wonders?

The official asked Jesus to make the journey to heal his suffering child, but Jesus proved His power isn't limited by proximity. Instead of traveling with the man, Jesus simply said the words, "Go, your son will live." The official believed Jesus' words and departed for his home. He was soon met by servants who informed him of the exact time his son was healed. It was the very moment Jesus declared him well! As a result, the official's entire household placed their faith in Jesus!

This passage reveals that faith often involves believing in God's provision even when we don't see immediate results. The official's willingness to return home, trusting Jesus at His word, illustrates the definition of faith given in Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen." The official didn't have to immediately see his son healed to believe Jesus' words of life.

Like the boy in this story, we need Jesus' healing power. While we may not be on our physical death beds, we come to Jesus dead in our sins. By trusting in Jesus for salvation, we receive the spiritual healing of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

This week, lead boys and girls to trust Jesus, especially in moments when they cannot see Him at work. Whether His answers to our prayers come quickly or seem delayed, we can trust in the power and goodness of our Savior who is always working for the good of those who love Him.



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



#### 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



## 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

- "Right On Time" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- butcher paper
- bandages, 2 sets of 24



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- stuffed animal
- sticker mailing labels, 1 per kid

#### Reflection and Prayer

- Bible story coloring page



### 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' Second Miracle" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- New Testament Israel Map (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- "Unit 22, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- "Discover South America" video

#### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "From Generation to Generation (Daniel 4:3)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



## 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 happen that seemed impossible? What was it? How did you react?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Right On Time” activity page.

**SAY** “Great job pairing the watches with the matching times! Did you know Jesus is always on time? In today’s story, we’ll learn how Jesus spoke and healed an official’s son.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: GIVE ME A HAND



Explain that in this game, the goal is for everyone to use their hands and feet to tag other players’ arms and legs. Lead the kids to spread out and attempt to chase their classmates. If someone is tagged, that arm or leg becomes *bandaged*. He or she must place that arm behind his or her back or hop on one foot. Now he or she can only tag with the remaining limbs. Once someone’s arms and legs are all *bandaged*, he or she must sit down. Play until one kid remains. Note: To ensure safety, instruct kids to make light tags and to not kick or trip classmates.

**SAY** “Was it harder to continue playing without your arms or without your legs? [Allow responses.] As Jesus traveled, He healed many who were sick and hurting. Today, we will see what happened when **JESUS HEALED AN OFFICIAL’S SON.**”

#### OPTION 2: ALPHABET BANDAGES

Before the session, trace the outline of a person on two pieces of butcher paper. Write each letter of the alphabet in different spots all over each outline. Write each letter of the alphabet on two different sets of bandages. Divide the kids into two teams. Give each team an outline and a set of bandages. Challenge them to place each bandage over each correct letter on their outline. The first team to place all the bandages in the correct spots wins.

**SAY** “Bandages are useful because they help us when we get hurt! But Jesus came to heal our pain in a way no bandage ever could. In today’s story, we will see that **JESUS HEALED AN OFFICIAL’S SON.**”

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’m glad you are joining us this morning! I’m [your name], and today we will be reading about another miracle Jesus performed during His life on earth. Today’s story can be found in the Gospel of John. If you brought your Bible to class, go ahead and turn there now. [Use this time to distribute a Bible to any kid who needs one.] Let’s pray together before we open God’s Word. ‘Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to heal not only physical sicknesses, but most importantly, to save people from sin. Open our hearts and minds as we read Your Word together. Amen.’ ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “ Today, we are going to learn a new big picture question and answer together! Remember that our big picture questions teach us important truths about God and His Word, the Bible. Our new big picture question is: **Why did Jesus perform miracles?** Together, we will learn that **Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.** As we’ll see in the story, Jesus’ miracles were not random, or some kind of magic trick. Jesus’ miracles were works of God that took place at just the right time to point people to God’s great love. Today, we will learn that the official’s son was healed the moment Jesus spoke. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

**SAY** “ Through His ministry, Jesus revealed His glory as the Son of God. He demonstrated His power through miracles and cleaned out the temple because of the people’s sin. To Nicodemus, Jesus explained that in order to enter God’s kingdom, we must be born again. Jesus revealed people’s sin so that they would come to trust in Him as the Messiah. Today, we will see that Jesus continued to reveal Himself as the Messiah by healing an official’s son. ”



## LEARN the Bible Story

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

Open your Bible to John 4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus’ Second Miracle.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### JESUS’ SECOND MIRACLE

“After traveling through Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee. This is the same city where Jesus performed His first miracle, turning water into wine at a wedding.

**A royal official came to Jesus, begging Him to come to Capernaum and heal his son. The man’s son was so sick he was about to die.**

**Jesus said, “Unless you all see amazing signs and wonders, you will not believe.”**

**“Sir,” the official said, “please come before my boy dies.”**

**“Go,” Jesus said. “Your son will live.” The man believed what Jesus said and left.**

**While the royal official was on his way, his servants came to him and told him his son was alive! The official asked, “What time did he get better?”**

**“Yesterday at about one in the afternoon,” they replied. The father realized the boy had gotten better at the exact moment Jesus had said, “Your son will live.” The man believed in Jesus, along with everyone in his house.**

**This was the second miracle Jesus performed after He came from Judea to Galilee.**

Christ Connection: God kept His promise to send Jesus, the Messiah, to save people from their sins. God will keep His promise to save everyone who trusts in Jesus as Savior and Lord. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Chart the towns:** Use a map to point out the places Jesus traveled through before He made it back to Cana. Show kids that Jesus’ ministry covered many towns and people.

**Numbers:** As you read the story, encourage kids to listen for the numbers you mention (one for “first” miracle, two for “second” miracle, one for “one in the afternoon”). At the end, challenge them to make the shape of the numbers they heard using their bodies. Lead them to discuss what those different numbers meant in the story.

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “Jesus brought the good news of salvation to many people, including Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman. And now, Jesus was revealing His glory to an official.

Jesus told the man that he would not believe unless he saw what? [Allow responses.] Signs and wonders demonstrated that Jesus is truly the Messiah; however not all people believed. Jesus came to save us from sin, but those who don’t trust in Him remain spiritually dead in their sin.

What did Jesus say when the man asked Him to come before his son died? [Allow



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

responses.] The official believed Jesus' words, and his son was healed at that very moment Jesus said, 'Your son will live.' Jesus invites each of us to repent of our sin and believe in Him as God's Son. From the very moment we trust in Jesus, we are saved from our sin.

We are all dead in our sins, but Jesus provided the way to save us by living a perfect life, dying for our sin, and rising again. Everyone who repents and trusts in Him is saved from death and will live forever with God. ”

### 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ Through His miracles, Jesus showed that He is God's Son. But Jesus did not come simply to heal our physical bodies. He came to save us from the spiritual death that comes as a result of our sin. Because of His death and resurrection, we can experience life when we trust in Him. To learn more about what it means to follow Jesus, you can talk with your parents or a church leader. ”

(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 22, Session 1” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How did Jesus heal people?
2. How have you seen Jesus' power in your own life?



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “Argentina, Chile, and Peru are three of the 12 countries on the continent of South America. Chile and Argentina are often named some of the most beautiful and unique landscapes in South America. The Patagonia region in parts of Argentina and Chile is famous for its beautiful mountains, glaciers, and unique wildlife.”

Show the “Discover South America” video. Each of these countries has interesting facts. Tell the kids that Chile is a long, narrow country from north to south, with around 4,000 miles of coast along the Pacific Ocean. The average width is only 110 miles. More than 19 million people live in Chile. Santiago is the capital city with around 7 million people. The majority of alpacas in the world live in Peru. You can swim with pink dolphins in the Amazon River in Peru. Argentina is the second largest country in South America, and the eighth largest country in the world.

Explain to kids that more than 300 people groups live in the remote areas throughout South America. These people have few or no ways to hear about Jesus.

Lead the kids to pray for the people who live in Chile, Peru, and Argentina. Pray for missionaries who tell people about Jesus in these South American countries.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Daniel 4:3 together.

**SAY** “Jesus’ miracles revealed His power and glory as God’s only Son. Jesus promises us eternal life in God’s kingdom when we trust in Him. Let’s learn more about this through our new key passage.”

Prior to the session, draw a simple remote control on a piece of paper with volume, pause, and play buttons. Invite the kids to recite the new key passage using the Key Passage Poster. Have them repeat it a second time, but this time show the remote control and lead them to adjust how they say the verse based on the buttons you press. For example, if you press the volume up button, they must get louder; if you press the volume down, they must say the verse softer; if you press pause, they must stop, etc. Play this until the kids have recited the entire key passage.

Lead kids to sing “From Generation to Generation (Daniel 4:3).” 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** “God, thank You for revealing Your glory and love to us through Your Son, Jesus. Help us share the truth about sin with others and point them to the good news of salvation. Amen.”

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





## 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 4. Explain that the word gospel means “good news”. Share that the Gospels point to the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. John’s Gospel records many early miracles that Jesus performed as He began to reveal His identity as the Messiah.

Consider pointing out the location of Cana [D5] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 4:50-54 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** “ Think about a time when you were really sick. When we are sick, the doctor or our parents give us medicine to help make us healthy again. Jesus showed His care by healing the official’s son. But this miracle pointed to a greater promise. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God who came to heal us from a much greater sickness: sin. God’s Word reminds us that we are spiritually dead in our sin. But Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that we can be made alive with Him! He is the best healer, and He calls us to share the good news of salvation with others. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ Why was Jesus able to heal the official’s son? ”

Remind kids that Jesus’ miracles point to His authority as God’s Son. Because Jesus is God, He has the power to heal physical needs, but more importantly, to save us from our sin. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 11:27.)

**SAY** “ Does Jesus always heal us from physical sickness? ”

Explain that Jesus has the power to heal, but that does not mean He promises to always immediately heal our physical needs or illnesses. Share that physical pain is the result of living in a world afflicted by sin. But remind kids that Jesus offers a greater hope: salvation from sin and life with Him forever! Even though we will have pain and struggles in this world, those who choose to follow Jesus can trust that all hurt and sickness will be gone in the new heaven and new earth. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Revelation 21:4.)

**SAY** “ What does it mean to be dead in sin? ”

Share that God’s Word tells us the punishment for sin is death. We have all sinned and deserve death. But because of God’s love for us, He sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life, die in our place, and rise again. When a person believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior, they are promised life forever with Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 6:23.)





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: THIS LINE'S ON TIME!



Share that this game will test the kids' ability to complete a task on time. Instruct the kids to form a single-file line in order of their birthdays, with January at the beginning and December at the end. Explain that they must line up in order in under one minute. Once finished, play several more times; consider having them line up by number of people in their family, number of pets, number of siblings, etc. You may also challenge them to form the line shoulder-to-shoulder, or even in reverse order (front to back, back to front, left to right, right to left). If the kids don't line up before the time runs out, they must start over.

**SAY** “ Being on time can be difficult, and we don't always succeed. **JESUS HEALED AN OFFICIAL'S SON** at the exact time Jesus said he was healed. Jesus is always on time, and He offers healing from sin when we believe in Him. ”

##### OPTION 2: STICKY SIN

Place a stuffed animal at the front of the room. Give each kid a sticker mailing label and a marker. Lead kids to brainstorm some different examples of sin. Encourage them to choose one sin and write that sin on their label. Then, one at a time, lead them to stick the label on the stuffed animal. Remind kids that even though Jesus lived a perfect life, He came to take all of our sins on Himself so that we can have a right relationship with God when we believe in Him.

**SAY** “ Jesus came to heal more than physical pain. Our sin is impossible to get off on our own. But Jesus is God's Son, and He came to solve the problem of our sin once and for all. ”

#### 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.