

John 2:1-11

Whoa! Water to Wine!

Scripture: John 2:1-11

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."*

Lesson Focus: This is the first miracle that Jesus performed and as our memory verse says, it resulted in the disciples having deeper trust and faith in Jesus. We will walk through this amazing story and emphasize that God appointed miracles like these for that very purpose: that people would trust and believe in Jesus as the Son of God.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture and Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Water into Wine

Starter Activity: Miracle or Mere Magic Challenge

We will have all the kids stay in the Summit Room for the starter activity.

We will put several pictures up on the screens and ask the kids whether they think that this picture represents something that is a miracle or something that is not. We will have the kids stand up * if they think it is a miracle and remain seated if they think it is not (and maybe have some discussion in between).

The point of this activity is to get the kids thinking about what miracles are and distinguish them from mere magic tricks or natural phenomenon.

Afterwards, we will ask the kids some questions to help them better understand that Jesus was not just a fancy magician doing cool tricks but actually performing supernatural signs and wonders for a very important purpose.

John 20:30-31 tells us why John wrote His gospel and recorded miraculous events like what we are going to read today: So that people would believe that Jesus is the Son of God and have life in His name! *

Psalms 111:2 says the works of the Lord are great and that we should delight in them and study them. Let's open our Bibles and do that now!

Bible Study:

John 2:1-2: Here we have the stage set at a wedding.

Q: How many of you have been to a wedding before? Anyone been in a wedding as a flower girl or a ring bearer? What is your favorite part of a wedding?

Weddings are a very special time! Lots of family and friends are invited, people are usually dressed up, and celebration is in the air. God instituted marriage at the beginning of Creation and it is special indeed when a man and a woman come together to commit their lives to each other before God. Back in Jesus's time, a wedding celebration often lasted several days and the feast was a HUGE deal.

Q: It says that Jesus' mother was invited to the wedding. Who is this?
We will see that Mary seems to play an important role in the wedding.

Q: Who was Jesus's earthly father? Notice that there is no mention of Joseph here and most Bible experts believe that he had already passed away making Jesus the "man of the house". Jesus was also invited to the wedding. If you kids get married when you grow up, make sure you invite Jesus to be at the center of your wedding and marriage as well!

John 2:3: Uh-oh! They are running out of "refreshments", which back then was wine.

Q: What does it mean to be a "good host"?

Back in Jesus' day showing hospitality, or being a good host, was very, very important! So, if they ran out of refreshments at this wedding, it would be a HUGE embarrassment bringing tremendous shame upon the bride and groom and their families.

Mary, it seems, was involved in the wedding and was looking to Jesus to help resolve this "refreshment" problem.

John 2:4-5: Jesus's response sounds a little strange to us, but He did not mean any disrespect. He tenderly addresses women this same way in many other parts of the Bible (see John 19:26, John 20:15).

It does seem like that He was telling Mary something really important though: That His miracles, signs, and wonders are done on His, and only His, timing!

Q: Have you ever prayed to God to do something big, maybe even miraculous, but nothing happened? *

In the same way, we must remember that God does things and answers prayer on **His timing**. God is not a gumball machine up in the sky that we put a "prayer quarter" into and automatically get what we want. He is the King! However, He is still in the business of doing miracles so we should never cease asking and pouring out our hearts to Him!

While we aren't exactly sure what Mary wanted Jesus to do, in v. 5 it is clear that she trusted that He would take care of the problem.

John 2:6: This verse describes some huge waterpots that the Jewish people used for purification.

Q: Who has parents or grandparents that tell you to wash your hands before meals? Why do they have you do that?

The Jewish people were extremely particular about washing before and after meals and these waterpots were there to assist all of the guests with this cleaning.

John 2:7-9: First, Jesus says to fill the pots with water. But then He has them take some of the "liquid" out and take it to the master host. **Teachers:** Consider bringing in a bucket or some non-transparent container and reenact this scene in front of the kids. For 1st & 2nd graders, you can actually use the bathrooms to fill the water and bring back the container. Then dip a cup (maybe with some red food dye in it?) into the bucket of water and hand it to someone who will "pretend" it is wine. *

Q: How would you explain what happened here? (let the kids chew on this a little bit!)

A: You cannot explain it with science or natural laws! That is why this is a miracle. This is not a magic trick, but a supernatural work of God!

John 2:10: Here we see the astonishment of the master host who can't believe how good this wine is! Not only did Jesus turn water into wine, but He turned it into the best wine of all! Jesus makes everything better!

One thing that is a little odd about this whole story is how quietly this all took place. From the text, it appears that only Mary and the servants who had drawn the water knew that a miracle had just taken place. The wedding seems to have continued uninterrupted!

When we think of miracles, we typically think of sensational and spectacular. While what happened here is certainly spectacular, it all happened so privately. No drawn crowds, no selfies with Jesus posted on social media, etc!

Q: Why do you think Jesus did the miracle so quietly?

A: Jesus knows that we are drawn to the sensational and the spectacular. And so we end up focusing on the miracles themselves **instead of the Person behind the miracles!** * And if we look at our next verse, we see that this turning of water to wine had the desired result of sharpening the focus of the disciples upon Him and not the miracle itself.

John 2:11: This was His first miracle and it resulted in His disciples believing in Him! If you look at miracles throughout Scripture, what you often see is they are simply God's way of getting our attention off of this world and onto Him! *

Read Exodus 14:31: This is the final verse closing the amazing account of the 10 plagues in Egypt, the freeing of God's people, and the parting of the Red Sea. Notice what came first: the people saw the works of God (miracles)! **Then** they feared God and believed in God! *

In the same way here, Jesus first gets our attention with signs and wonders, and then we respond by putting our faith and trust in Him!

Key Point: Jesus didn't tell people to "just have faith" that what He was saying was true. He used signs and miracles - acts not possible by someone without God's power - to get people's attention and to prove that He was Who He said He was: the Son of God.

Q: What was the ultimate miracle that proved to His followers and to us that Jesus was who He said He was?

A: The resurrection! Jesus did things only God could do to prove He really was God!

Remember **John 20:30-31** that we mentioned at the beginning explaining why John wrote this gospel?

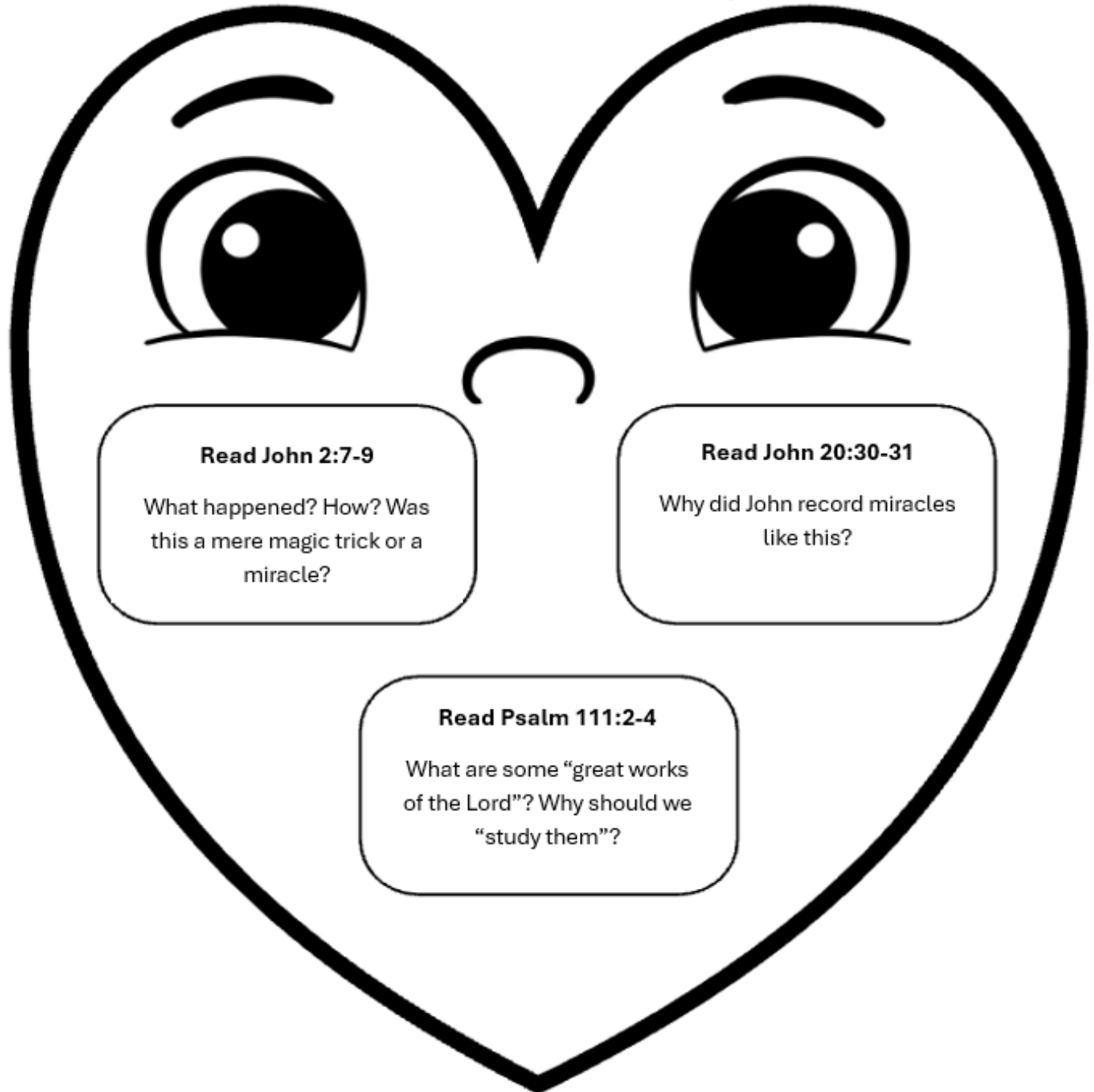
So that our eyes would be opened in wonder at Jesus as God and Lord.

So that we would draw nearer to Jesus in faith, trust, and obedience.

So that we would give our lives to Jesus to live them His way, and not our way.

BRING IT HOME

BEHOLD what manner of **LOVE** the Father has
bestowed on us,



that we should be called children of God!