

Wedding at Cana

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
John 2:1-11

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Epiphany 2

Lesson Focus
We celebrate Jesus' miracles!



Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

Kids put together mystery word puzzles and do an Activity Page.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Markers, paper strips, tape, pencils

Circle Time

Kids greet each other with the letter W, hear about the church season, and think of stories that might use their mystery words.

Leaflet

Assembled word puzzles from Arrival Time

Prayer Time

Kids pray a celebratory, responsive prayer.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Wedding at Cana Storytelling

Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible, and kids look around for miracles.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Assembled word puzzles from Arrival Time

In the Picture with Jesus

Kids pose in scenes from the story.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

Bible-times costumes or fabric in a variety of textures and colors, camera (optional)

Celebrate Together!

Kids draw or write about celebrations they have attended.

Leaflets

Pencils or markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
The First Miracle Kids find the item that is different from the others.	Leaflets	Pencils
Weddings in Bible Times Kids learn about wedding customs in Bible times.	Leaflets	None
Wedding Dance Kids learn a simple wedding dance.	None	CD player, music CD, rhythm instruments (optional)

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids select what they will do at home this week and make the sign of the cross as a blessing.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
Prayer Time Kids repeat the opening prayer in a celebratory style.	Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

Before kids arrive, prepare word puzzle strips. Write the following words on separate strips of different colored paper or using different colored markers:

Wedding
Jesus
Miracle
Water
Stone Jar

Cut each puzzle into pieces, enough for at least one piece per kid. Hide the pieces around your room.

Set out copies of the Activity Page for this lesson and pencils or markers on a table.

As kids arrive, tell them to search for the puzzle pieces and work together to put the puzzles together. **There are many puzzle pieces hidden in our room. Each is part of a word clue about the story we will hear today. Jesus had to find an answer for a problem. Search our room to find all of the pieces. Look for pieces that match the color of your piece and work with each other to figure them out and tape them together.** Collect the puzzle words, making certain each kid/group knows their word.

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Markers
Paper strips
Tape
Pencils

Circle Time

Let's welcome everyone today. For each person in our class, we will say, "God welcomes name of kid into the family of God!" The word *wonder* starts with a **W. I wonder if any of you have ever gone to a wedding. *Wedding* starts with **W**, too! Let's use the letter **W** today as we greet each other. Tell something about yourself that begins with **W**. I will go first. "I want to worship Jesus in many ways." Give each kid a turn, helping those who might struggle with this.**

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Hold up a leaflet and point to the star symbol on the green background under the lesson title. **Last week was the beginning of a new season in the church called Epiphany. If last week was Epiphany 1, what would this week be? (*Epiphany 2*) The word *Epiphany* means "to show." What picture do you see to help us remember Epiphany? (*star*) A star helped show the Wise Men the way to find**

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Assembled word puzzles
from Arrival Time

baby Jesus. What is the color of Epiphany? (*green*) **Look for other things that are green in the church during Epiphany. Jesus helps show us the way to love and care for each other. Today Jesus shows us what he can do. He can make a miracle happen.**

When you came to class today, each of you became a puzzle detective. You searched for and found the pieces of words and put them together. The words you discovered are hints about today's story. What happened in today's Bible story was also a clue! It was a clue about who Jesus was and what Jesus could do. Invite the kids to share their words. **Hmm, an interesting set of words. Do any of you know a Bible story that might have these words in it? Let's pray together, and then we will see how our clues fit into the story.**

Prayer Time

Stand in a circle. Kids raise their arms in the air and wave their hands joyfully as they respond, "We celebrate you, Jesus!" after each line of the prayer.

We celebrate you, Jesus,

For your loving care, (response)

For your miracles, (response)

For the gifts you give us each day, (response)

We celebrate you, Jesus. (Repeat response over and over, fading to a whisper.)

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Wedding at Cana Storytelling

Jesus, the disciples, and Mary were invited to a wedding. Raise your hand if you've been to a wedding. How long did the wedding last? What did you do at the wedding? In Jesus' time, a wedding did not last for a few hours. A wedding lasted for several days. Imagine that! Since this story is about Jesus, it is in a book in the New Testament. Let's find it in our Spark Story Bibles.

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find Wedding at Cana on pages 410–415. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to look at the pictures to help them understand what is happening and follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

Lay the puzzle words on the table for all kids to see. **As puzzle detectives, you put these word clues together. Now we can tell each other how each word was used in the story.** Give kids turns telling about the words in the story, assisting any kids who need help with this.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Assembled word puzzles
from Arrival Time

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

- 1. Who knew that the wine ran out?** (*Mary, servers, some guests, Jesus*)
- 2. How many stone jars did the servers fill with water?** (6)
- 3. What does this miracle show you about Jesus?** Affirm all responses.

In the Picture with Jesus

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

Look at the first page of your leaflet. The people were excited about the wedding but worried when they found out that something was empty. What was empty? (*the stone jar*) **What was it empty of?** (*wine*) **Let's use a sticker to complete the picture.** Hand out stickers and give kids time to complete the picture.

There was a problem at the wedding at Cana. The jug was empty. The empty jug led to Jesus' first miracle. It must have been fun to be at that wedding and see what happened. Of course, they didn't have cameras in Jesus' time. We don't have photos from then, but we have our imaginations. Let's use them. Let's pretend we were in some of the scenes at the Wedding at Cana. We can stand and look like the people in the pictures. Ask for volunteers to be Mary, Jesus, the servers, the bride, the groom, and the guests. Let kids select a costume or fabric for their character to wear. Assemble the actors for each scene. As they act out the scenes, encourage them also to say the caption words. (*Let's celebrate, Oh no! The jug is empty, What will Jesus do?, Cheers!*) Take pictures to hang in your classroom.

Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible.

Today's Bible story, Wedding at Cana, is from the book of John. The book of John was the last Gospel to be written. John wrote his Gospel about 100 years after Jesus died.

Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where? (*Wedding, 100, Jesus*) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible memory verse from the story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. John 2:11

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Bible-times costumes or
fabric in a variety of textures
and colors
Camera (optional)

Celebrate Together!

Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets.

Jesus went to a wedding in a place called Cana. He celebrated with the other guests. Everyone celebrated when Jesus made a miracle happen. We call a wedding a celebration. Have you ever gone to a celebration? It could be a wedding, a birthday party, or a church celebration. Write about what happened with your words, or show what happened by drawing a picture. When the kids are finished, invite them to share and describe the celebration they attended.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils or markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

The First Miracle

Let's look at the third page of the leaflet.

Jesus changed water into wine. It was his first miracle. The water was not the same after Jesus came along. There are lots of pictures of things on this page, but they are not all the same. Try to find which picture is not the same as the others. Which of Mary's faces is not like the others? Why? When you find it, put a circle around it. Continue with the jars, flowers, and Squiggles. **Are you sure you weren't there in Cana? It may be easy for you to find things that are different, but only Jesus changed water into wine—it was the first miracle!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Weddings in Bible Times

Turn to the back page of your leaflets.

Many things have changed since the time of Jesus. But we can still find out a little bit about what Jesus' time and Bible times weddings were like. The wedding at Cana was a Jewish wedding. Many things about Bible times weddings still happen today in Jewish weddings, and in some Christian weddings today. Let's find out what they are.

Read the first statement to the kids, **"A rabbi married the bride and groom."** **What is a rabbi?** (*a Jewish leader and teacher*) **Are there still rabbis today?** (*yes*) **Do rabbis still marry brides and grooms today?** (*yes, for Jewish weddings*) **Has anyone been to a Jewish wedding before or met a rabbi?** Let kids share their experiences. Continue this process of reading, asking questions, comparing to today and sharing wedding experiences as time permits.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Wedding Dance

This activity can be done with a music CD or simple rhythm instruments (drums, sticks, tambourine) for accompaniment. The kids can even hum a tune familiar to everyone. Having a steady beat to follow is the most important element.

Wedding guests danced at weddings in Jesus' day. Their dances were called "circle dances." Dancers moved around in a big circle, hopping, skipping, clapping, singing, chanting, and playing instruments. Everyone did the same steps at the same time. Help kids create or learn a simple patterned dance with two or four different steps repeated over and over again. Practice without music to a basic count of 1, 2, 3, 4. When kids have a good feel for where their feet are moving, add the music. Have fun and laugh together, just like the wedding guests at Cana.

Example: Have kids stand in a circle or a line. They can hold their arms up and touch palms together or hold hands. Repeat each type of step 2 or 4 times:

Step to the side with your right foot and together with your left foot.

Step to the side with your left foot and together with your right foot.

Tap right heel out and back together.

Tap left heel out and back together.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

CD player

Music CD

Rhythm instruments
(optional)

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for coming to class. We learned today about a wedding where Jesus turned water into wine. We learned that this was Jesus' first miracle. But it wasn't Jesus' last miracle! Look around—we can see Jesus' miracles everywhere. *(kids coming to Sunday school, miraculous happenings in nature, friendships nurtured at church)* **The news of what Jesus can do is worth celebrating and sharing.**

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet, and have the kids fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week, we can tell each other what we did to share God's love and remember our Bible story!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Scissors

When we make the sign of the cross, we remember that God is with us every moment of every day. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or in your hand to remember God's protection this week. Then make the sign of the cross in a friend's palm and say, "We celebrate Jesus' miracles!" At the end of class, do the same for each kid and ask them to do the same for you.

Prayer Time

Use the words of the opening prayer. This time, begin in a whisper. With each line, increase the volume slightly. Speak the final response loudly and joyfully. Remind the kids of the response: "We celebrate you, Jesus!"

We celebrate you, Jesus,

For your loving care, (response)

For your miracles, (response)

For the gifts you give us each day, (response)

We celebrate you, Jesus. (repeat loudly, joyfully, raising hands above heads)

Amen.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None