

Wedding at Cana

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
John 2:1-11

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Epiphany 2

Lesson Focus
**We celebrate signs
of Jesus' presence.**

Bible Memory Verse
**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**



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids list party supplies.	Activity Pages 	Mural paper, masking tape, markers, pencils
Opening Conversation Kids share sad news and celebratory news.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	None
Opening Prayer Kids name emotions that Jesus can change.	None	None


Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Wedding at Cana Story Kids consider how characters may have felt at the wedding.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Mural paper from Arrival Activity, paper, markers
Operation Cupcake Switcheroo Kids play Red Light-Green Light and read the contemporary story.	Leaflets	None
Joy in Sadness Kids do a word search in teams.	Leaflets	Blue pens, red pens

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Fun Facts Kids answer questions about the Fun Facts.	Leaflets	None
Vessel of Joy Kids create origami balloons.	Leaflets	Scissors, pencils

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids review the lesson with the help of balloons.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Balloons from Vessel of Joy activity, mural paper from Arrival Activity and Wedding at Cana story
Closing Prayer Kids pray a rhyming prayer.	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 Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

Tape a 4-foot (1.2m) piece of mural paper to the wall. Along the top write, “Things you need for a party.” Leave markers next to the mural paper, and as kids enter invite them to add anything and everything that comes to mind.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Mural paper
Masking tape
Markers
Pencils

Opening Conversation

Let's see how everybody's week went. First we'll share sad news, and then news we want to celebrate. Go around the room and let everyone share their sad news. Follow that with the celebratory news. After each kid finishes sharing news to celebrate, encourage the rest of the group to cheer and applaud as if it were the best news they had ever heard. **Wow! That's a lot of great news.**

How many of you did a Faith on the Go! activity last week? Let's celebrate that, too! Cheer each kid on as they share their Faith on the Go! experiences.

Pass out Spark Bibles. **You may be wondering why we're doing all this celebrating today. It's because Jesus turns sadness into celebration! Sometimes thinking about all the work it takes to memorize a Bible verse can get you down. But I'd like to celebrate it! Look up John 2:11. John is the last of the four Gospels. Can you tell me where to find it?** (*New Testament, fourth book, about three-fourths of the way through the Bible, after Luke, before Acts*)

Make sure kids have located John 2:11 on page 1173 in the Spark Bible. **We're going to take turns reading our Bible Memory Verse using different emotions. Who'd like to go first?** Have kids take turns reading the verse. Whoever reads the verse gets to pick who will read it next and what emotion they will read it with: happy, sad, moody, giggly, confused, angry, timid, outgoing, etc. Make sure everyone gets a turn to read it. **Do any of you think you've got it memorized?** Let kids give it a shot. If they get it right, encourage them to put stickers next to the verse. If not, there will be another chance during the story.

Who can tell me the Bible Memory Verse from last week? If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it for the group. Guide the kids to help them remember parts they don't.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

None

Opening Prayer

Divide the group in two. **Think about some of those emotions that we just talked about. For our opening prayer we'll say the sentence, "When we are _____ make us _____." One group will fill in the first part of the sentence with a negative feeling, and the second group will come up with an opposite feeling. For example we might say, "When we are weak make us strong." Let's try it.**

Dear Jesus, You have the power to change us.

When we are _____ make us _____.

When we are _____ make us _____.

When we are _____ make us _____.

In your name we pray,

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Wedding at Cana Story

Give each kid a piece of paper and a marker. **Today we're going to read about a wedding party. Look at the list of party supplies you made earlier. What would be the most important thing on this list? What if it was missing?** Flip the mural paper over to the blank side.

We're going to read today's Bible story about the wedding at Cana. As we read sections of it we're going to create a list of the characters in this story and talk about what emotions they may be experiencing. Open your Bibles to John 2:1-11.

Help kids find the story on page 1172 in the Spark Bible. Break the story into the following sections by verse: 1-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11.

Ask a volunteer to read a section. After each section, ask who the characters are and how the kids think each character felt at this point of the story. Have kids list their responses on their papers. After the reading, discuss the kids' responses to the story.

Jesus did the unexpected in this story. He did things backwards and brought out the good wine last. Let's work on our memory verse backwards, too. Stand in a circle holding Bibles open to John 2:11. One kid says the last word. The next kid says the second to last word and the first kid repeats the last word. Continue adding each word of the verse. Depending on group size kids may have more than one word. Once you've made it through close the Bible and try saying it together. As kids get it right, have them place stickers by the verse.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Mural paper from Arrival

Activity

Paper

Markers

Operation Cupcake Switcheroo

Play a game of Red Light-Green Light. Stand at the opposite end of the room as the kids. Face them and say, “red light.” Turn your back and say, “green light.” Now they can try and make it to you. Say, “red light” and turn around. If you catch anybody moving they go back to the starting line. **Some of you are a bit sneakier than others, I see. How many of you think you’d make good secret agents? Could you sneak into a birthday party and save the day? I’d like you to be our readers!**

Distribute leaflets and ask kids to find Operation Cupcake Switcheroo on the first page. Invite your readers to read Operation Cupcake Switcheroo as the rest of the group follows along.

In this story and the Bible story, a party disaster was avoided, but what’s the difference? (*Jesus did a miracle, the secret agent was just plain sneaky*) **Can you think of a time when disaster was avoided? How did you respond?** Answers will vary.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Joy in Sadness

Divide the group into competing teams—Team Sad and Team Glad. Give one team blue pens and the other team red pens. **Take a look at “Joy in Sadness” on the second page of the leaflet. When I say, “Go,” Team Sad will search for and circle 10 sad words, and Team Glad will search for and circle 10 glad words. Ready? Set? Go!**

Switch teams and pens so that each kid identifies all 20 words.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Blue pens

Red pens

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Fun Facts

Ask volunteers to read through the Fun Facts on the third page of the leaflet. Have kids respond to the following three questions.

Which fact is the hardest for you to believe?

Which fact is the most interesting to you?

If you could try out or live out one of these facts, which one would it be?

Give everyone a chance to share.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Vessel of Joy

At the wedding of Cana, Jesus used the water in the clay jars and turned it into wine. He took an ordinary vessel to start a celebration. We're going to make our own Vessels of Joy right now. Let's start by reading the directions on your leaflet. Help kids work together to fold their vessels by following the instructions on pages 73-74. Some kids have an easier time folding than others, so encourage kids to help one another out with each step.

After everyone has folded a vessel, try playing some balloon games. Stand in a circle and keep one vessel up in the air. Then two or three. Pass around vessels using only knees and feet. Have kids try racing while keeping vessels balanced on their foreheads. Have fun!

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Sit in a circle with each kid holding his or her Vessel of Joy. Place the mural paper in the center of the circle. **We're each holding a Vessel of Joy. It's a reminder that Jesus turns sadness into celebration. Let's each share one thing we learned today. It may be something from the story, a Fun Fact, or a favorite game or activity we did today. After you share, toss your vessel to someone else. After that person shares, they'll pass their Vessel. We'll go until everyone has shared and we all have someone else's Vessel.**

Now we'll take turns tossing back each person's Vessel, but first you have to say today's Bible Memory Verse. Before you throw it, you have to know it! Allow kids to use their Bibles if necessary. Have kids place stickers next to the Bible Memory Verse if they haven't already done so. Once everyone has returned the Vessels, turn to Faith on the Go! on the back page of the leaflet. **We've got this great news to celebrate, so let's take a look at a few ways to do it!** After making goals to do various Faith on the Go! activities, close in prayer.

Closing Prayer

Fold your hands and pray with me.

**Dear Jesus,
From here to there, there to here,
From near to far and far to near,
everyday and everywhere,
Fill us with your love to share.
Amen.**

Be sure to send the leaflets and a Family Page home with the kids.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Scissors

Pencils

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Leaflets

Supplies

Balloons from Vessels of Joy activity

Mural paper from Arrival Activity and Wedding at Cana Story

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

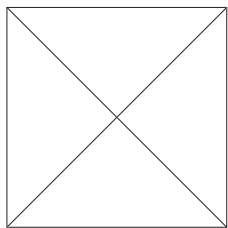
None

Tear here for easy use!

Instructions for Vessel of Joy Activity

1. Fold the paper diagonally on the dotted line. Unfold and then fold diagonally the other way.
2. Fold the paper in half on the horizontal dotted line.
3. Unfold the paper and then gently tuck in one side on the horizontal line.
4. Your origami vessel should now have one side folded in.
5. Now that one side is tucked in, tuck in on the other side.
6. You now have an origami balloon base. Tuck up the two corners.
7. Flip the vessel to the other side and flip up the other two corners.
8. Fold the two corners into the middle.
9. Flip the vessel and fold the other two corners into the middle.
10. Fold the two pointy tips down and tuck them under the triangles.
11. Do the same for the two pointy tips on the other side.
12. You now have the vessel, but it needs to be inflated! Find the small hole at the bottom of the vessel and give it some good puffs. You may need to open up the vessel a little bit to inflate it. Kids can experiment and share what works.

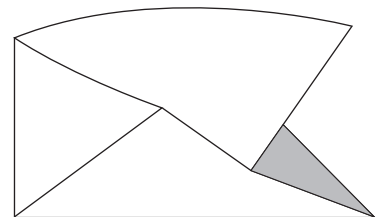
Stumped? Many online videos show how to fold an origami balloon.



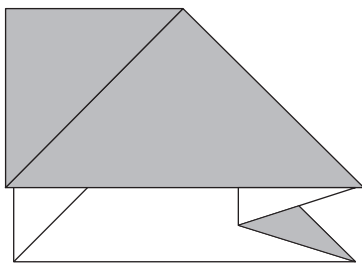
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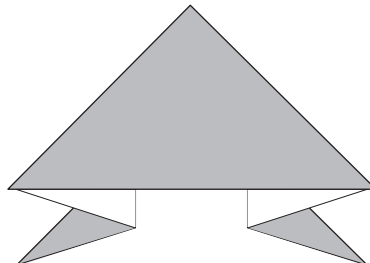
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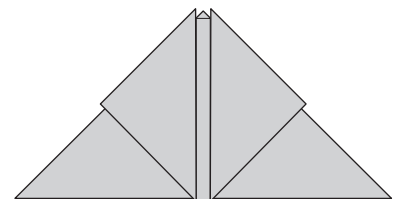
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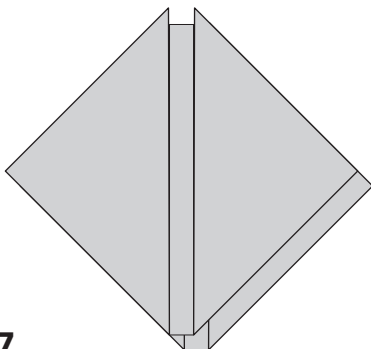
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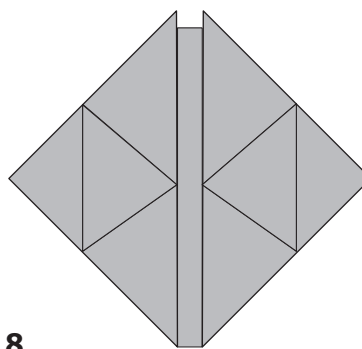
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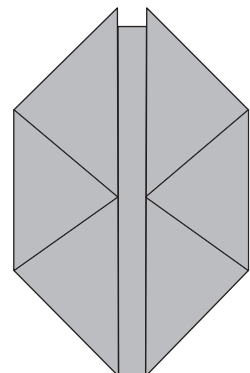
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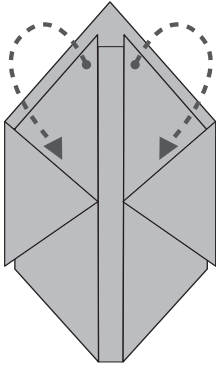
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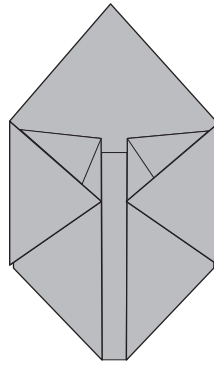
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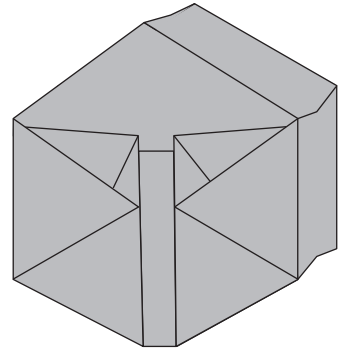
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