

# Wedding at Cana

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**John 2:1-11**

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Epiphany 2**

Lesson Focus  
**Jesus surprises us!**

Bible Memory Verse  
**For with you is the  
fountain of life; in your  
light we see light. Psalm  
36:9**



### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Activity</b> Kids consider change in the world.	Activity Pages, Leaflets 	Paper, pencils
<b>Opening Conversation</b> Kids talk about parties, surprises, and joy.	Leaflets	Pencils
<b>Opening Prayer</b> Kids use movement in prayer.	None	None

### Open the Bible (20 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Wedding at Cana Story</b> Kids act out the Bible story in an improv-theater style.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	None
<b>Wedding Bells</b> Kids journal about weddings.	Leaflets	Pencils
<b>Riddle</b> Kids solve a riddle about jugs of water.	Leaflets	Pencils

## Activate Faith (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Surprise Drawing</b> Kids relate to the wedding guests' surprise by drawing their best surprise ever.	Spark Bibles, Leaflets	Pencils
<b>Wedding Dance</b> Kids express joy by creating a wedding dance to perform as a group.	Leaflets	CD of dance music (optional), CD player (optional)
<b>Bible Memory Verse</b> Kids memorize a verse from Psalms.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	None

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Closing Conversation</b> Kids talk about what makes change good or bad.	Leaflets	None
<b>Closing Prayer</b> Kids pray for their classmates.	Family Pages 	None



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://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.

Greet kids as they arrive. Distribute leaflets, paper and pencils. Ask kids to focus on how things in the world change by challenging them to identify five things that they cannot imagine being without. These things should be things that were not available to their parents. (*Internet, MP3 players, YouTube, Digital TV, phones with cameras, etc.*) Once everyone has arrived, share the lists and allow a brief time for discussion.

Ask kids to look at the image on the front page of the leaflet and consider together the Life Question: Does it ever feel like things are changing too fast? Challenge kids to come up with arguments on both sides of the issue.

### Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Leaflets

### Supplies

Paper

Pencils

## Opening Conversation

---

Make sure everyone in your group feels welcome and is seated so they can see each other. Pick a volunteer to read Did You Know? on the second page of the leaflet. Use the following questions for your discussion. **Would you want to get married in a big group, or a private ceremony? Why? Why do you think wedding parties are such a happy time? Have you ever been to a surprise party? What do you remember? Have you ever heard of a party that started out of nowhere, or do parties take planning? How would you feel if you were at a party and they ran out of food or drinks?**

Allow time for kids to share their Faith on the Go! experience from the past week and to review the Bible Memory Verse (BMV).

Ask a volunteer to read State Your Vase on the second leaflet page. Challenge kids to work in pairs to draw the right design on the fourth vase.

Answer Key

The patterns are as follows:

- Right side design, left side design, center design, right side design, left side design.
- Vase with 2 triangles, vase with 4 triangles, vase with 8 triangles, vase with 16 triangles, vase with 32 triangles.

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils

## Opening Prayer

---

Have everyone stand for your opening prayer. **For our opening prayer, we're going to use our hands to indicate the parts of our bodies that we use for each of the prayer petitions. I'll speak first, and just repeat after me.**

(Put your hands on your head.) **Christ, be in my head to give me the gift of wisdom.** *(repeat)*

(Put your hands on your heart.) **Christ, be in my heart to give me the gift of joy.** *(repeat)*

(Put your hands on your lips.) **Christ, be on my tongue to spread Good News to my neighbor.** *(repeat)*

**Amen.**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

None

## Open the Bible (20 minutes)

### Wedding at Cana Story

---

**In improvisational theater, actors make up the scene as they go. That's what we'll do with today's Bible story. I'll pick actors and actresses as I read, and listen for what you're supposed to do. Your part will be a surprise.**

Distribute Spark Bibles and help kids find John 2:1-11 on pages 1172-1173 in the Spark Bible. Every time a new character is introduced, pick someone to play the part. The actors should repeat the dialogue after you read it (it doesn't matter if they don't get long speeches word-for-word) and improvise movement and hand gestures. If your group is small, one person could play multiple roles. The roles are Mary (the mother of Jesus), Jesus, Jesus' disciples (multiple), servants (multiple), the chief steward, the bride, and the bridegroom.

**Weddings in Jesus' time lasted for days. People walked from miles away to attend. The host of the wedding was expected to have enough food and drink to last the entire time. There were no grocery stores or restaurants where guests could go to get food.** Encourage kids to talk about this wedding, making sure they understand the storyline. After a time for discussion, focus on what was surprising at this wedding. *(The host ran out of wine. Jesus was able to turn water into wine. Jesus' wine was the best.)*

Once the story is finished, have kids find Makes Me Wonder stickers and place them next to a verse that gets them thinking.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

### Supplies

None

## Wedding Bells

---

Encourage kids to journal their thoughts about weddings in the space provided in Wedding Bells on the second leaflet page. As you discuss their thoughts, make sure to accommodate kids who think getting married is not for them, or kids who are uncomfortable with sharing.

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils

## Riddle

---

Encourage kids to work in teams to solve the challenge in Riddle on the third page of the leaflet. **Surprises can happen out of nowhere, but sometimes they take careful planning. Think about the Bible story for today. What's one example of something unexpected happening? What's an example of a person or people working hard to make a surprise happen?**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils

### Answer Key

Fill the three-gallon jug and pour it into the five-gallon jug.

Do this one more time, leaving one gallon in the three-gallon jug.

Empty the five-gallon jug and pour the one gallon into it from the three-gallon jug.

Fill the three-gallon jug one more time and pour the three gallons into the five-gallon jug.

There are now four gallons in the five-gallon jug.

# Activate Faith (10 minutes)

## Surprise Drawing

---

**What's the best surprise you've ever gotten? Was it a present, or a visit from someone you love? Use the space in Surprise Drawing on the third page of the leaflet to create a drawing of that moment. Be sure to include the way your face looked!**

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils

Give kids turns sharing about their drawings. Follow up with some of these questions. **When people say, "You just had to be there," what do you think they mean?** (*It was so amazing that you can't really appreciate what happened unless you had seen it.*) **When the people at the wedding in Cana told the story of what Jesus did, how do you think they told it?** Answers will vary—encourage creativity. **What gifts does Jesus give us? Are they surprises? How can we share those gifts with other people?**

## Wedding Dance

---

Ask a volunteer to read the instructions in Wedding Dance on the fourth page of the leaflet. Make sure everyone participates. It will work well to give each kid a step that lasts a musical measure (1, 2, 3, 4). Every time you add a step, go back to the beginning and do the whole dance so you don't forget it! If you have music handy, use it!

Do the dance several times until everyone learns it.

**Why do people dance, especially at weddings or parties?** (*Dancing is a way to celebrate, express emotions, brings people together*) **Do you ever dance when you're sad?** (*probably not*) **Do you prefer dancing alone, or with other people? If you're happy, how do you share that with others?**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

CD of dance music (optional)  
CD player (optional)

## Bible Memory Verse

---

Invite kids to find Psalm 36:9 on page 606 in the Spark Bible. Ask a volunteer to read the verse to the group. **This is our Bible Memory Verse for today. How do you think this verse connects with today's Bible story?** (*Accept kids' responses, but focus on how the sign that Jesus did at the wedding brings new life and a light to see the world in surprising and new ways.*)

Read through the verse several times until the group can recite it without looking at the Bible. Encourage kids to put an I Memorized It sticker next to the verse.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

### Supplies

None

## Send (5 minutes)

## Closing Conversation

---

Go around the group and ask each person to think of a change that is happening in his or her life. It can be good or bad. **Our lives are affected by change all the time—it seems like change is the only thing that doesn't change! Is change good or bad?** (*it can be either or both at the same time*) **If we have to go through a change that's uncomfortable, or sad, what can we do to stay positive about it? What's something about the world that you would like to change if you had the power?**

**Much of what Jesus did was about change. He changed water into wine, changed people's minds, the way society works, and of course, he saved us from our sins, which is the best change of all! Jesus always makes changes for the best, and changes our sadness into joy!**

Ask kids to find Faith on the Go! on the last page of the leaflet. Encourage them to do this Internet search with their families and to report back next week.

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

None

## Closing Prayer

---

Have your group stand in a circle, putting their right hands on the left shoulder of the kid next to them. Have each kid say, *"God, please turn (person's name) sadness into celebration."*

**Let us pray,**

**God, please turn [person's name] sadness into celebration.** (Repeat around the circle.)

**Amen.**

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

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

