

Wedding at Cana

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
John 2:1-11

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Epiphany 2

Lesson Focus
Jesus turns sadness into joy.



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Play Time Kids use various activities to explore the theme of happiness.	Coloring Pages 	Kid-friendly magazines and newspapers, glue sticks, kid-safe scissors, poster board, crayons
Circle Time Kids discuss the idea that Jesus brings happiness.	Leaflet	Collage from Play Time
Prayer Time Kids echo the leader's words and actions as they pray.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Wedding at Cana Storytelling Kids hear and interact with the story of the Wedding at Cana.	Spark Story Bibles	None
Jesus Goes to a Wedding Kids match numbers to pictures of things at the wedding at Cana.	Leaflets	None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Party Hat for Jesus' Visit Kids make a festive party hat to wear to the wedding.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Glue sticks, feathers, sequins, markers
Turn Those Frowns Upside Down Kids make a frown turn into a smile.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Glue sticks, chenille craft stems, poster board, scissors, markers
Caring Charades Kids play a game of charades, with Jesus stepping in to turn their sadness into joy.	None	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids review the lesson and sing a good-bye song together.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None
Prayer Time Kids pray together with their leader.	None	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: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Welcome kids as they arrive and invite them to play a game with the song “If You’re Happy and You Know It.” Make up some fun things to do. For example: **If you’re happy and you know it laugh out loud, say “I love you,” and hug a friend.** Set out magazines and other supplies on the tables. Work together to make a big collage of magazine pictures of things that make kids happy, or have kids draw things that make them happy. Add a title, such as “What Makes Me Happy.” Have the Coloring Page available for kids who wish to color. Help kids write their names on their papers.

When everyone has had time to play, ask kids to put away the supplies and join you in a circle around a table or open floor space. As kids do so, encourage them to join you in saying this chant:

1-2-3 (three claps)

Come with me.

4-5-6 (three claps)

Let’s sit down quick.

7-8-9 (three claps)

It’s Circle Time, then Story Time!

Circle Time

Hi, everyone! I am so glad you are here. As we gathered today, we had some fun. Some of you contributed to a collage of things that make you happy. What are some of the things you see? Let kids respond as you hold up the collage. **Did you know learning about Jesus can make each of you happy, too? Let’s see who Jesus can give a smile.** Start listing some basic characteristics of the kids in front of you. As you say something that describes them, have them stand up. **Stand up if you are wearing shoes. Jesus can make YOU happy! Stand up if you are wearing a shirt. Jesus can make YOU happy!** Continue until everybody is standing.

Next, lead the kids in a cheer:

Jesus makes me happy! (*point to self*)

Jesus makes you happy! (*point to someone else*)

Jesus makes us all happy! (*raise hands high*)

In today’s Bible story, Jesus turns sadness into joy at a wedding. I’ll bet you can’t guess what he did. Before we find out, let’s look at our leaflet. Hold the leaflet for the kids to see. Point to the seasonal icon. **What color am I pointing to today? (green) That’s right, green is the color for the church season called Epiphany! During Epiphany we discover some amazing things about Jesus.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Kid-friendly magazines and newspapers

Glue sticks

Kid-safe scissors

Poster board

Crayons

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Collage from Play Time

Prayer Time

As we start our lesson today, let's take time to pray. Invite kids to copy your words and actions as you pray:

Dear Jesus, (lift palms up)

Fill our lives with joy. (smile)

You are all we need. (lift palms up)

Fill our hearts with joy. (hands over heart)

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Wedding at Cana Storytelling

It's time to hear the story of how Jesus turned people's sadness into great joy. He is invited to a wedding, and so are you! So sit up straight and smooth out your clothes—you are invited to a party with Jesus!

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Take out your copies of the Spark Story Bible and distribute them to the kids. Help them find page 410 to follow along with you. Read Wedding at Cana, pages 410-415. As you read these phrases, lead the kids in the following actions:

- "good food and good wine" (*Kids rub their bellies and smack their lips.*)
- "How can this be?" (*Kids shrug their shoulders and look at each other.*)
- "Slosh, slosh, slosh." (*Kids imagine they are playing in water.*)
- "Everyone sang and danced." (*Kids wave their arms in the air.*)

After the story, ask the kids the following questions, allowing time for them to respond. **What kind of party was Jesus invited to?** (*a wedding*) **What happened that made the people sad?** (*The wine ran out.*) **What did Jesus turn the water into?** (*wine*)

Jesus Goes to a Wedding

Gather the kids together at a work table. Hand out the leaflets and look at the front-page activity, Jesus Goes to a Wedding.

The story of Jesus at the wedding at Cana is more than a story about a wedding. It is a story about Jesus turning sadness into joy. A wedding is usually a very happy celebration. How many of you have ever been to a wedding? Let kids respond. **There were a lot of things to see at this wedding.** Point to each picture on the leaflet. **Jesus was there, and so was the happy wedding couple, three servers, wine, guests, and water jugs. Find the orange number 1. Let's trace the line with our fingers to find what there was one of at the wedding.** Let kids trace. **There was one Jesus! Now let's find the yellow number two. Trace that yellow line. There were two people who were married! They are very happy.** Repeat this process with the numbers four through six. Then repeat these words as a chant.

1 is for Jesus

2 is for two married people

3 is for the servers

4 is for the empty jugs

5 is for the wedding guests

6 is for the jugs of water Jesus turned to wine! Hooray!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Party Hat for Jesus' Visit

Have kids turn to the back of the leaflet. Direct their attention to the Party Hat for Jesus' Visit activity. Ask the following questions, giving time for kids to respond.

Have you ever been to a party? What kinds of parties have you been to? Have any of you ever been to a party where you wore a hat? Today you are going to decorate a hat for a party. Not one you could actually wear, but a party hat you might like to wear at a party with Jesus. As you decorate your hat, think about the story we heard and wonder about the things Jesus can do. Remember, at the wedding he turned water into wine. What other things does Jesus do to help people? Invite kids to respond as they decorate their hats with the three decorative stickers and any other items they choose.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Glue sticks

Feathers

Sequins

Markers

Turn Those Frowns Upside Down

Look next at the Turn Those Frowns Upside Down activity. **There is a face here on the back of your leaflets. I see two eyes, two ears, a nose and—what is this? Is this a frown? Let me see you frown.** Let kids show you their frowns. **Does this little boy look happy? No! That is definitely a frown—like the ones on the guests at the wedding at Cana when the wine ran out.** Hand out chenille craft stems and help kids turn their stem into a frown.

Now let's turn some frowns upside down and into smiles. Demonstrate first how to turn their craft stems upside down to make a smile and then have them make smiles with their faces. **Your great smiles make me smile!** Distribute the smile stickers for kids to put over the leaflet frowns. Then, as kids draw a picture of something that makes them happy in the space on the leaflet cut a large curved mouth shape from the poster board. Make sure that it can look like both a smile and a frown. **Your final job is to glue your craft stem on the poster board in the shape of a smile.** Use glue sticks to attach them all and add kids' names next to them.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Glue sticks
Chenille craft stems
Poster board
Scissors
Markers

Caring Charades

Gather the kids in a circle. **Today we are learning that Jesus can turn our sadness into joy. What season of the church year are we in? (*Epiphany*) Epiphany means being shown something is true. In this story, Jesus shows he is the Son of God. He showed people that he could make them happy—turning water into wine.**

Let's play a game that begins with us being sad and acting out our sadness. Can you guess what happens when the person playing Jesus touches us? (*He will turn our sadness into joy.*) When that happens we will all shout, "Jesus is here! No sadness; just joy!"

To play this game, pair the kids up. Each pair will act out a specific scene: a skinned knee, a bumped head, a broken toy, not being picked to play ball, etc. Choose a different kid each round to play Jesus. Let the pair act out their scene for a while, and then have Jesus step in and touch them on the shoulders. When he does, all kids can call out, **Jesus is here! No sadness; just joy!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for coming to such a wonderful party with me today! We learned so many things. Most importantly, we learned that Jesus can turn our sadness into joy. We have a lot to be thankful for. And the Faith on the Go! idea in your leaflet is a great way for you and your family to celebrate some of the things God has given you each day of the week. Be sure to send leaflets home with kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Before we go, let's sing our sending song together. Lead the kids in this song, using the words and actions below to the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle."

God loves you. (*point out*)

God loves me. (*point to self*)

We're a happy family. (*open arms wide*)

When we're loved the world feels right. (*spin around*)

Inside, outside, day and night. (*clap, clap, stretch high, clap*)

God loves you. (*point out*)

God loves me. (*point to self*)

We're a happy family. (*open arms wide*)

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's end our time together with a prayer. Please repeat each line after me.

Dear Jesus,

You make us so happy.

May we remember the joy you bring

Each and every day.

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

