

LESSON 7

The Wedding Feast

JOHN 2:1-12



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS IS THE CREATOR

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 2:1–12 from the Scriptures or read story 85, “The Wedding Feast,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Save the Best for Last

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three large pitchers—one transparent
- ✓ grape-flavored powdered drink mix
- ✓ water
- ✓ long-handled spoon for stirring
- ✓ small, four-ounce cups—one per student
- ✓ pretzel sticks or some other salty snack

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

The Qualities of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Drawing the Pitcher

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper
- ✓ crayons—especially blue and purple

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 30 MIN

Compare the Use of "Hour"

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencil
- ✓ Bibles

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Mary trusted her son—Mary’s faith and confidence in Jesus was displayed in the way she approached her son for help. Weddings in Jesus’ day lasted seven days. It would be a terrible embarrassment to the host to run out of wine. So Mary called upon her son for help. Jesus initially objected, saying that his time had not yet come. But Mary, persistent and full of faith, simply directed the servants to do whatever Jesus said. Mary didn’t demand or tell Jesus what to do; she simply entrusted the problem to him. In a similar way, God honors our faith in him and our persistent prayers. Jesus honored his mother’s request. By doing so, he begins his supernatural ministry and reveals that he is no ordinary man.

Jesus creates wine from water—Although Jesus initially told his mother that his time had not yet come, he decided to step out in power to honor his mother, rescue the wedding feast, and give a powerful picture of his divinity to those closest to him. Colossians 1:16 tells us that Jesus is the Creator, and that through him all things were made. Jesus demonstrated his power to create by changing the water into wine. When the master of the feast tasted the wine, he was impressed with the quality. Wine normally takes weeks or months or even years to be aged to perfection—that is, unless it is miraculously made!

Jesus had a family—Mary and Joseph had children after Jesus was born. Jesus had younger half brothers and sisters! One of Jesus’ brothers, James, became a leader in the early church in Jerusalem. Most people attribute the letter of James to him. Joseph is notably absent in the life of Jesus at the wedding. It is likely that Joseph died at some point prior to this, leaving Mary a widow with children. Jesus, as the eldest son, would have had a special responsibility to care for his mother. He carried this responsibility all the way to the cross, where he charged the disciple John to care for Mary as his own mother (John 19:27).

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Master of the Banquet

In Jesus’ day a master of the banquet oversaw the feast and regulated the distribution of wine. Often wine was diluted with water. The best wine was offered at the beginning of the feast, knowing that after seven days of celebration it would be harder to notice a poor quality wine. In addition to creating wine to save his host from embarrassment, Jesus honors him by creating a quality wine. This late in the celebration, no one, least of all the master of the banquet, expects the best to be saved for last.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

In response to the need for wine, Jesus told his mother, "My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4). Jesus understood the hour was approaching when he would miraculously provide the wine of the new covenant, in his blood, on the cross. Jesus was already planning to offer men the wine they could not provide for themselves. But that hour had not yet come.

With a demonstration of his power in turning the water to wine, Jesus' ministry was about to begin. And once started, it would move ever closer to the cross. It is no accident that Jesus' first miracle speaks powerfully of the cross and the gospel. He wanted it that way. Jesus came to offer mankind the wine of his blood for the forgiveness of sins. He came for their participation in the great wedding feast yet to come. The new wine was for their great joy. Mary's talk of the need for wine, at a wedding, pointed interestingly to the climax of Jesus' mission—a wedding feast where Jesus would have a banquet with his bride, the church. Yet, while Jesus knew that the hour was coming when his blood would be shed and the greater miracle of salvation would be accomplished, he was not eager to hasten that day. His demonstration of power was largely hidden at the wedding feast, with only a few people aware of the miracle. Soon, Jesus' ministry would explode on the scene as he demonstrated the power to heal the sick and drive out demons. It wouldn't take long for the religious rulers to despise him and find a way to take his life.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 2:1–12 from the Scriptures or read story 85, "The Wedding Feast," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Save the Best for Last**Supplies:**

- ✓ three large pitchers—one transparent
- ✓ grape-flavored powdered drink mix
- ✓ water
- ✓ long-handled spoon for stirring
- ✓ small, four-ounce cups—one per student
- ✓ pretzel sticks or some other salty snack

Before class prepare one pitcher of drink mix at one-third strength. Into the transparent pitcher place enough drink mix powder to make a pitcher of drink at full strength. Fill the third pitcher with water.

Use this activity to help the story come alive. Begin to tell the story of the wedding. Pass out cups of the one-third strength drink and pretzel sticks. Try to make your retelling dramatic. Feel the freedom to add fictional elements to the story (such as name of the bride and groom and perhaps how they know Jesus and his family).

When you get to the part where Jesus turns the water into wine, add water from the third pitcher to the powdered mix in the clear pitcher. The water will instantly change. Give it a stir, then go back around to the children and pour the full-strength mix into their cups. (They should marvel at the full-strength flavor just about the time when you talk about the master of the banquet's comments that the best wine was saved for last.)

- **When God creates something, how does he describe it?**
(God described everything he created as being good—in the case of man, very good. It is no surprise that the wine Jesus created was also good; that is just how God creates!)
- **What did the disciples learn about Jesus that day?**
(They learned that Jesus was no ordinary man. John 2:11 says his disciples believed in him).

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

The Qualities of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

This exercise is designed to help the children see how Jesus' miracles and wonders help us to see that he is God. Have the children give you suggestions from the Bible for miracles and wonders that show the following:

Jesus is creator—He turned water into wine (John 2:7–9).

Jesus commands the creation—The wind and waves obeyed his command to be still (Mark 4:39).

Jesus is not limited by space and time—Jesus came through a locked door (John 20:19).

Jesus is not limited by death—Jesus rose from the dead (Matthew 28:6).

Jesus is the giver of life—Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave (John 12:1).

Jesus is all knowing—Jesus knew the life story of the woman at the well (John 4:29).

The children may come up with additional examples that are not listed. If time allows, turn to some or all of these examples.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Drawing the Pitcher

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper
- ✓ crayons—especially blue and purple

Draw a picture of the water being poured out of a large jar into a smaller pitcher. Color the water pouring out of the jar blue down to the halfway point. From there, color it and the liquid in the pitcher purple, signifying the change from water into wine.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Compare the Use of "Hour"

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencil
- ✓ Bibles

Divide the class into six groups. Assign each group one of the following verses. Have each group read their verse and explain the significance of the word "hour" in their verse. ("Hour" refers to a period of time, but is used to point to a couple of specific events in the life of Christ.)

Matthew 24:44—The hour represents the time of Jesus' second coming.

Matthew 25:13—The hour represents the time of Jesus' second coming.

Matthew 26:45—The hour represents the time of Jesus' death.

Mark 13:32—The hour represents the time of Jesus' second coming

Mark 14:35—The hour represents the time of Jesus' death.

Mark 14:41—The hour represents the time of Jesus' death.

Ask the following questions:

- **What do we learn from these verses?**
(There are two important "hours" in the ministry of Jesus—his death and his second coming.)
- **What is the warning associated with the "hour" of his second coming?**
(Since we do not know the day or time, we need to be ready.)