

LESSON 7

The Wedding Feast

JOHN 2:1-12



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS IS THE CREATOR

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: pitcher, small cups—one for each child

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 85)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage; (optional) powdered drink mix

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 7—one for each child; markers or crayons

The Wedding Feast

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ grape powdered drink mix
- ✓ crackers
- ✓ clear pitcher with water
- ✓ large spoon for stirring drink in pitcher
- ✓ other supplies to recreate the wedding, e.g., white streamers, white balloons, flowers (optional)

The Master of the Feast

SUPPLIES: stone water jar (This could be any large vessel—even a five-gallon bucket is fine); master of the feast costume (a length of fabric to drape over shoulders will suffice)

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about how Jesus turned water into wine.

Bring to class a pitcher containing enough water for half the class to have a drink and small cups—one for each child.

At the start of class set out small cups—one for each child. As you ask the following questions start to fill the cups with water from the pitcher. (You should run out of water before you fill all the cups.)

- **What is a wedding?**
(A wedding is a ceremony when a man and a woman pledge their love to each other for life and get married.)

- **Have you ever been to a wedding? If so, what was it like? What did you do?**
(Take any answer and if no one can contribute, share about a wedding that you went to. Explain to the children that the ceremony is usually followed by a big party to celebrate the married couple. At the party there are plenty of things to eat and drink.)

At this point, pour out the last of the water. Look dismayed and announce to the children that you have run out of water and not everyone can have a drink. Ask the children how they feel not to have a drink like everyone else.

Then ask them what you should do. (They will likely say get more water.) Use this as an opportunity to tell the children that in today's lesson Jesus was at a wedding where they ran out of wine! That was the main thing the people were drinking and it was a terrible thing to run out of wine at a wedding in those days.

Send a helper to get more water so that everyone can have a drink. Then tell the children that when the people ran out of wine at the wedding in our story today, Jesus did something amazing so they should listen closely.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 85, “The Wedding Feast,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What kind of party was this story about?
(a wedding feast)

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.

■ Who came?

(Jesus, his disciples, Jesus' mother, other family and friends, the master of the feast [probably a friend of the groom who was in charge of providing food and drink for the feast], and, of course, the bride and groom)

■ What went wrong at the wedding?

(They ran out of wine.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

Note: A creative project for snack would be to put a predetermined measure of powdered drink mix in their cups and pour clear water in so that when it hits the mix it turns a color. Then talk about how powerful Jesus is to be able to turn water into wine.

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

■ What would it have been like to be at the wedding as a servant and see the water turn to wine?

(Accept any answer.)

■ What do we learn about Jesus when we see that he could take water and turn it into wine?

(We learn that he is all-powerful and controls all things.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 7—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What did the water in the jars turn into?

(Jesus changed the water to wine. Have the children color the liquid coming out of the jar red to represent wine.)

- What do you think the servants thought when they discovered the water had been turned to wine?

(They would have been surprised and amazed. This was the first miracle that Jesus performed. Jesus performed miracles to show that he was indeed the Son of God and not just an ordinary man.)

- What do you think the disciples with Jesus thought about this?

(The Bible tells us at the end of this story that the disciples put their faith in him.)

The Wedding Feast

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ grape powdered drink mix
- ✓ crackers
- ✓ clear pitcher with water
- ✓ large spoon for stirring drink in pitcher
- ✓ other supplies to recreate the wedding, e.g., white streamers, white balloons, flowers (optional)

Welcome the children into the classroom as guests at a wedding. Give them crackers to eat but nothing in their cups to drink. Have the teachers act out the wedding feast and have the conversations talk about how wonderful the wedding was. After the children have begun to eat their crackers talk about how you have run out of the special wedding drink and only have water to serve. A discussion should ensue that just water will not do for a wedding. Have one of the teachers get an idea and stir the drink mix powder into the water right in front of the children. Have the other adults be amazed that the water turned into a grape drink.

Give the children each a drink while you tell the Bible story. Ask the children what was different about what Jesus did. Ask them how Jesus could turn the water into wine. (The answer of course is that Jesus was no ordinary man but he was God in control of all things and able to create something from nothing [see Colossians 1:15].)

The Master of the Feast

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ stone water jar or any large vessel—even a five-gallon bucket is fine
- ✓ master of the feast costume (a length of fabric to drape over shoulders will suffice)

Have an adult dress up as the master of the feast. Have him make up the details of the wedding and tell the story from his perspective. In the biblical account it does not say the master of the feast ever found out that it was Jesus who provided the wine, but for the sake of the skit let's pretend that he later found out and is amazed at what happened. He should tell the children that he never tasted wine as good as the wine that was served at the end of the banquet. He should then end the story by saying I hope I see this man Jesus again one day, for he was the true master of the wedding feast!

After the drama, draw the children into a conversation about what Jesus did and how Jesus could turn the water into wine. Jesus was no ordinary man, but he was God. He was in control of all things and able to create wine from plain water (Colossians 1:15).

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 7 - THE WEDDING FEAST

