

New Testament 2: Jesus Shows He Is True God

Engage CD

Cross Explorations® Sunday School



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Cross Explorations® At-a-Glance

15 Minutes

Engage
(Large-Group
Opening)

20 Minutes

Explore
Level 1
(grades 1–3)
Level 2
(grades 4–6)

25 Minutes

Express
Drama
Music
Crafts
Activities
Service

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use _____

Jesus Changes Water into Wine

John 2:1–11



Key Point

In His first miracle at Cana in Galilee, Jesus showed that He is God. Through God's Word and physical means—water, bread, and wine—God shows us that Jesus is our Savior.

Law/Gospel

Like the disciples, I am unsure of who Jesus is. **Through His Word and Sacraments, Jesus shows He is my Savior and God.**

Context

This event occurs at the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry. It shows His glory as God through His first miracle.

Commentary

In ancient Jewish wedding custom, betrothal was the marriage contract and could not be broken except by divorce. After a period of time, the groom and his friends would go to the home of the bride and bring her and her friends to his home. There, they would have a feast, and the couple would begin living together without further ceremony. The feast would often last for days or even a week.

Christ, our Bridegroom, is betrothed to His Bride, the Church. Nothing can break His holy vow to take us as His own. Now we are in the waiting time as the Bridegroom prepares a home for us to live in forever (John 14:1–4).

Meanwhile, we are inviting guests by the work of evangelism. At the Last Day, Jesus will appear with all the company of heaven and take us to Himself, and the wedding feast will commence. We will have table fellowship with our Lord in the everlasting banquet (Revelation 19:6–10).

In this text, we see that Mary was there. She was possibly a friend of the bridal couple, since she seems to have had some involvement in the banquet and so was aware of the problem with the wine running low. Jesus is an invited guest, along with His six disciples. This event takes place early in His ministry—the full complement of the Twelve had not yet been chosen.

The lack of wine was a serious problem and shows a lack of preparation on the part of the steward of the wed-

ding feast or of the groom. It would have caused acute embarrassment. This theme of unpreparedness is similar to the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. Note also the anxiety connected with wedding feasts in other parables of Jesus, such as Matthew 22 and Luke 14. Similarly, we sin by our lack of faith and readiness to receive our Lord. We, too, need to repent, for if Christ were to return this instant, none of us on our own would be ready. Only by grace are we made acceptable in His sight.

Learning about the lack of wine, Mary turns to Jesus for help. And Jesus gives it. There were six large stoneware jars that were meant to hold water for the Jews' many ceremonial washings. Jesus commanded the servants to fill the jars with water, and then He turned that water into about 110 gallons (estimates vary) of premium wine, astonishing the steward, the groom, and all present.

The text concludes by saying that there were two results of this miracle, or sign. One is that it revealed the glory of the Lord and demonstrated the divinity of Jesus. That is the function of all miracles—to confirm the truth of the words of the prophet. The second result is that the disciples believed in Jesus. So, too, when we learn of the signs that Jesus did, we find that God strengthens our faith by the power of His Word.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/ podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



Greg Copeland © CPH

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use _____

Jesus Clears the Temple

John 2:13–22



Key Point

Jesus' cleansing of the temple carries a twofold message: He is the Lord of the temple in the flesh, and even more important, He is the true temple, through whom our sins are paid for and we are made heirs of eternal life.

Law/Gospel

I sin when I do not honor God's house or when I disturb the worship of others. **Jesus is my holy temple who, by His sacrifice on the altar of the cross, cleansed me from sin and made me a member of His Body, the Church.**

Context

John recounts this cleansing at the forefront of his Gospel in order to highlight it. Other evangelists place a similar cleansing later, during Holy Week (e.g., Matthew 21:12–17). When worshipers arrived at the temple, usually from far away, they exchanged their "unclean" Greek currency for Jewish coinage. They used this cash to purchase animals for sacrifice rather than leading a lamb or ox all the way from their often-distant homes.

Commentary

There are no figurines of Jesus brandishing a whip. That wouldn't fit well with our modern-day sentimentality about the Savior. But there's the real Jesus, lashing here and there to drive out the livestock and their owners. Over go the tables, "sacred" coins littering the ground. They have turned His "Father's house" into "a house of trade" (John 2:16). So Jesus brings them down like a house of cards.

None too happy with Jesus, the Jews demand a sign to verify that this troublemaker has the right to cause such a mess. To them, His reply was preposterous: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (v. 19). The Jews can't believe their ears. How can Jesus possibly think that He can raise from the rubble an edifice that took nearly half a century to construct? But they miss the point, for "He was speaking about the temple of His body," John says (v. 21), which He would "reconstruct" within seventy-two hours after the Romans tore it down with hammer, spike, and spear.

The cleansing of the temple carries a twofold message. First, the true Lord of the temple was there, in the flesh. He came to purify what others had dirtied with their devotion to the god of currency. But second, and more important, He came as the true temple as well.

All the victims for sacrifice, all the blood and flesh burned upon the altar—indeed, the altar and temple themselves—would very soon reach their expiration date, as happened when Jesus expired on the cross, breathing out His Spirit. For the temple was no longer a place of wood and stone, but of flesh and bone. He was the temple, priest, and sacrifice—the fulfillment of all that Leviticus had foreshadowed.

Unlike every other sacrifice in the past, this Lamb would emerge from the altar ashes and rise from the tomb, the temple of His body flawless, save for the scars. But those wounds are the tokens of our healing, sacred tattoos etched into His hands, feet, and side to testify to the world that this once-destroyed temple has been rebuilt to house our own wounded bodies, perfect them, and raise them up to be like His.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



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POWERPOINT TIPS

The slides on this CD work with PowerPoint versions from 2003 forward or with the free, downloadable PowerPoint Viewer.

The full PowerPoint program is available as part of Microsoft Office for PCs or Macs. A variety of programs on Apple computers convert and use PowerPoint files as well.

As an alternative, Microsoft offers PowerPoint Viewer as a free download. This program lets you view, project, or print slides, but not create or edit them. You need the complete PowerPoint program for those tasks.

To install PowerPoint Viewer, use the link on the automatic menu of this CD.

1. Put the CD in your computer's CD drive.
2. Click "Install." Follow the directions on the automatic menu. It will take you to this site: <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=13>
3. You need to agree to the license terms. Once installation completes, restart your computer.

Troubleshooting

When working with these PowerPoint slides, some things may affect the look of your slides.

1. Different versions of PowerPoint may provide slides that look slightly different than the originals. You might see odd spacing or words that run out of a text box or off the page. You may see odd placement of Bible references.

The problem comes from different fonts on the computers that made the slides and the one you use. Even fonts with the same names may differ from one computer or system to another.

2. To help, we use fonts embedded in Microsoft Office programs and common to most computers. Using the Microsoft Office fonts should take care of most of the differences between the two operating systems.
3. We also prepare and check slides on PC and Mac computers to make sure they work with both systems.
4. If you find odd spacing with apostrophes and quotation marks, change a setting in your PowerPoint program. After doing so, you might need to retype the punctuation marks to get rid of the odd spacing.
 - For Macs, when in the PowerPoint program, click on the word "PowerPoint" along the top menu and choose "Preferences" from a pull-down menu.

Choose “Autoformat As You Type.” Click to check the box in front of “Straight quotes with smart quotes.”

- For PCs, go to File/Options/Proofing/Autocorrect Options. Choose “Autoformat as you type” and click to mark the choice that says “Straight Quotes with Smart Quotes.””

Editing slides

If you have 1997, 2003, 2007, or 2010 Microsoft Office with a full PowerPoint program, you can edit these slides or copy and paste them into different presentations. Some animations may not work in pre-2003 versions of PowerPoint.

(PowerPoint 1997 does not copy and paste slides easily. Please consult your software manual for help.)

When editing and creating slides, you may have difficulties when you cut and paste elements from one slide or presentation to another. However, this is very easy to do if you know a few secrets.

PowerPoint defaults to the design template of the presentation you pasting slides **into** and does not automatically carry over design elements from the slide you copied. This means you can lose art, photos, and other elements of the original slide. However, a few easy steps can retain the design of the original slide.

1. Make sure you are in NORMAL view.
2. Copy slides from the source (right-click to bring up the menu and choose COPY), and then put your cursor below or between the slides in the new presentation to insert the copied slides.
3. Paste slides into the new presentation (right click to bring up menu and choose PASTE).
4. When you do, a small clipboard icon appears at the bottom right-hand corner or somewhere near the new slides. (If it does not appear, undo and reinsert.) Click on the clipboard. Two choices appear in a menu below the clipboard: 1) Keep source formatting; OR 2) Use design template formatting. To retain the design elements of the copied slide, choose 1. To take on attributes of the new presentation, choose 2.

Playing Slides with Linked Music

Open the PPT file. The music slides will automatically play when you click to the first page of lyrics. Do not click again until the song finishes.





Lesson 1.
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Lesson 1 Handout

Jesus Changes Water into Wine

John 2:1–11

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Wisdom and Knowledge

Leader: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
(Psalm 111:10)

People: We praise You, God our Father!

Leader: All those who practice it have a good understanding.

People: His praise endures forever!
(Psalm 111:10)

Leader: In [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:3)

People: We praise You, Christ Jesus!

Leader: Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
(Psalm 90:12)

People: We praise You, Holy Spirit!

Leader: [Christ] we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may

present everyone mature in Christ.
(Colossians 1:28)

People: Thank You for giving us faith in Jesus, our Savior.

Leader: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

People: We praise You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Amen.

Song

Presentation

Offering and Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread; and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against
us; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Song

Lesson 2 Handout

Jesus Clears the Temple

John 2:13–22

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Jesus, God's Promised One

Leader: Through the prophet Isaiah, God said about the promised Savior, "Behold My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen, in whom My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him." (Isaiah 42:1)

People: **The promised Savior would have God's Spirit upon Him.**

Leader: And God also said, "The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy." (Isaiah 35:5–6)

People: **The promised Savior would do these amazing miracles.**

Leader: And God also said, "I will give You as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind." (Isaiah 42:6–7)

People: **The promised Savior would let spiritually blind people see His grace.**

Leader: So when disciples of John the Baptist asked Jesus if He was the Savior, Jesus said, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up,

the poor have good news preached to them." (Luke 7:22)

People: **See? Jesus did everything God's prophets said the Savior would do.**

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

People: **Hear? Jesus, our Savior, is the only way to know God our Father.**

Leader: Jesus is the Savior God promised to send to His people.

People: **Jesus opens our eyes and ears.**

Leader: Jesus died to pay for our sins. Jesus rose to give us new life, now and forever.

People: **We believe in You, Jesus, our Savior!**

All: **Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

Song

Presentation

Offering and Prayers

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Song

Bible Challenge Questions

Engage Openings, New Testament 2

Lesson 1

True or false:

Baptism “works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.” **True. These words come from the Baptism section of Luther’s Small Catechism.**

Lesson 2

Although the Jerusalem temple was used in New Testament times for worshiping the Lord, what name was it commonly called, and why? **It was called Herod’s temple because Herod the Great started building it.**

Lesson 3

What is a Pharisee? **A Pharisee was a well-educated, very religious, pride-filled leader who often clashed with Jesus about His teachings. Pharisees thought they were better than other people who were “sinners.” The Bible also calls them “teachers of the Law.”**

Lesson 4

What is a well? **A well is a hole dug into the ground to get water, oil, or gas. In Bible times, most people got their water from wells, carrying it home in jars.**

Lesson 5

True or false:

Everyone who met Jesus loved Him! **False. Jesus made some people angry. Others were threatened by Him. Many did not believe in Him and rejected Him.**

Lesson 6

True or false:

Some of Jesus’ twelve disciples left their jobs as fishermen to follow Him. **True. See Matthew 4:18–22.**

Lesson 7

Name one person whom Jesus healed.

Answers will vary. Jesus healed many people, including some who were blind, had leprosy, were paralyzed, or had other sicknesses.

Lesson 8

True or false:

Large crowds followed Jesus, making it hard sometimes for Him to eat, rest, or spend time with His disciples. **True.**

Lesson 9

What job did Matthew do before Jesus called him to follow Him?

- A. farmer
- B. shepherd
- C. tax collector

C. tax collector

Lesson 10

True or false:

Jesus was able to sleep in the stern of a boat during a great storm. **True.**

Lesson 11

True or false?

Jesus sometimes healed many people on the same day. **True.**

Lesson 12

Which one of these statements is not true?

- A. James and John walked on water.
- B. Peter walked on water.
- C. Jesus walked on water.

A. James and John walked on water.

Lesson 13

What is your favorite healing miracle of Jesus? **Answers will vary.**

Pronunciation Guide—New Testament 2

Jesus Shows He Is True God

Lesson 1: Jesus Changes Water into Wine, John 2:1–11

Cana KAY nuh

Galilee GAL ih lee

Lesson 2: Jesus Clears the Temple, John 2:13–22

No new names from previous lessons

Lesson 3: Jesus Teaches Nicodemus, John 3:1–21

Israel IS ray ell

Moses MOE zez

Nicodemus nick oh DEE mus

Pharisees FARE uh sees

Rabbi RAB igh

Lesson 4: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman, John 4:1–42

Judea joo DEE uh

Messiah meh SIGH uh

Samaria suh MAR ee uh

Samaritan suh MAR ih tuhn

Sychar SIGH kar

Lesson 5: Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth, Luke 4:16–30

Capernaum kuh PURR nay uhm

Elijah ee LIE juh

Elisha ee LIE shah

Isaiah eye ZAY uh

Naaman NAY a man

Nazareth NAZ ah reth

Sidon SIGH dun