Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Turns Water into Wine

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Jesus has power over everything, even water. When we do whatever He tells us, all the way, we see His glory.
Bible passage: John 2:1–11. Read it before class, with Mark 7:3–4 and John 19:26.
Memory verse: "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him." *John 2:11 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a 1-gallon jug (empty or full of water), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Set the gallon jug where everyone can see it.

1. Opening game: How Much Water? (5–10 minutes)

Hold up the gallon jug. Say: "In today's story there are six big stone waterpots. How many of these jugs do you think ONE waterpot could hold?" Each child writes a guess on their paper. Then ask: "How many jugs for all six pots?" Kids write a second guess. Keep the papers. You will find the answer in the story.

2. Bible story: Whatsoever He Saith Unto You, Do It (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to John 2. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

The wedding. Look up John 2:1–2. On the third day there was a **marriage** (a wedding) in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Her name was Mary (Matthew 1:16). Jesus and His disciples were **called** (invited) to the marriage.

The problem. Look up John 2:3. When they wanted wine means when they did not have enough wine. His mother told Jesus, "They have no wine." **Look up John 2:4.** Jesus said, "Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come." **Woman** was a respectful way to speak in that day. Jesus spoke to His mother the same way from the cross (John 19:26). **Mine hour is not yet come** means "My time has not come yet." **Look up John 2:5.** His mother told the servants, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." **Whatsoever** means whatever, and **saith** means says.

Six waterpots. Look up John 2:6. Six waterpots of stone stood there, "after the manner of the purifying of the Jews." That means they held water for the washing the Jews did to be clean. Mark 7:3–4 says they washed their hands before they ate, and washed cups and pots too. Each waterpot held "two or three firkins." A **firkin** was a measure of about 10 gallons. So one waterpot held about 20 to 30 gallons, and all six together held about 120 to 180 gallons! Check the guesses: who came closest?

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Fill them up. Look up John 2:7. Jesus said, "Fill the waterpots with water," and they filled them **up to the brim**, to the very top. **Look up John 2:8. Draw out now** means "dip some out now," and **bear unto the governor of the feast** means "carry it to the man in charge of the feast." The Bible doesn't say what the servants thought. It says they did it: "And they bare it" (2:8).

The good wine. Look up John 2:9. The ruler of the feast (the same man in charge) tasted "the water that was made wine." He **knew not whence it was**, which means he didn't know where it came from. But the servants who drew the water knew! He called the **bridegroom**, the man getting married. **Look up John 2:10.** He said that people usually served the good wine first and the worse later, "but thou hast kept the good wine until now."

The first miracle. Look up John 2:11. This beginning of miracles means it was the first miracle Jesus did. **Manifested forth his glory** means He showed who He really is and how great He is. And His disciples **believed on him**: they trusted Him.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Jesus' mother didn't tell the servants what Jesus would do. She said, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it" (2:5). Why is that good advice for us too?
2. The servants filled the waterpots "up to the brim" (2:7). What is the difference between doing something halfway and doing it to the brim?
3. The man in charge didn't know where it came from, but the servants knew (2:9). What did the servants get to see because they obeyed?
4. Jesus' first miracle helped a family at their wedding when something ran out. What does that show you about Jesus and our needs?
5. After this miracle, His disciples believed on Him (2:11). What helps you trust Jesus?

Recall questions

1. How many waterpots were there, and what were they made of? *(Six, made of stone, John 2:6)*
2. Who did the servants carry it to? *(The governor of the feast, 2:8)*
3. Who knew where it came from? *(The servants who drew the water, 2:9)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **this beginning of miracles** means the first miracle, **manifested forth his glory** means He showed how great He is, and **believed on him** means they trusted Him. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "In Cana, Jesus showed His glory, and His disciples believed on Him (John 2:11). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: when God's Word or a parent asks you to do something, do all of it, "up to the brim," not just part of it.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. John 2:1: In what town was the marriage? *(Cana of Galilee)*
2. John 2:2: Who was called to the marriage with Jesus? *(His disciples)*
3. John 2:5: What did His mother say to the servants? *(Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it)*
4. John 2:6: How much did each waterpot hold? *(Two or three firkins apiece)*
5. John 2:8: To whom did the servants carry it? *(The governor of the feast)*
6. John 2:9: Whom did the governor of the feast call? *(The bridegroom)*
7. John 2:11: What did Jesus manifest forth? *(His glory)*
8. John 4:46: Where did Jesus come again, the place where He made the water wine? *(Cana of Galilee)*

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You for Your great power. You care about what we need. Help us do whatever You tell us, all the way to the brim, even when we don't know why yet. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Told the Bible's way: this lesson tells the miracle in the Bible's own words, "the water that was made wine" (John 2:9), and keeps the focus on Jesus' power and on obeying Him. Every activity uses only water. If a child asks more about the wine, answer simply with what the verses say, and encourage the child to talk with their parents and pastor.

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