Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Turns Water into Wine

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Jesus' power shows His glory. Real faith does whatever He says, all the way, even before we see the result.
Bible passage: John 2:1–11 and John 20:30–31. Students read them out loud themselves.
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)* and "His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." *John 2:5 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read John 2:1–12, Mark 7:3–4 and John 20:30–31. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses.

1. Opening game: Why Would I Do That? (5–10 minutes)

Read each instruction out loud. Students guess the reason behind it. 1) On a plane: "Put on your own oxygen mask before you help someone else." 2) A coach: "Practice the same free throw a hundred times." 3) A parent: "Don't open the door, even if the person says they know me." 4) A doctor: "Take all of the medicine, even after you feel better." Ask: *Is it easier to obey when you know why? Have you ever obeyed first and understood later?* Say: "In today's story, servants got a strange instruction with no reason given."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: John 2:1–5. Students take turns, a verse or two each. Old words in this passage:

- **marriage** (2:1): a wedding; **called** (2:2): invited
- **wanted wine** (2:3): did not have enough wine
- **Woman** (2:4): a respectful way to speak then; Jesus used it for His mother from the cross too (John 19:26)
- **what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come** (2:4): what does this have to do with Me? My time has not come yet
- **whatsoever he saith unto you** (2:5): whatever He says to you

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Read out loud: John 2:6–11. Old words in this passage:

- **after the manner of the purifying of the Jews** (2:6): for the washing the Jews did to be clean (Mark 7:3–4 lists hands, cups and pots)
- **two or three firkins apiece** (2:6): a firkin was about 10 gallons, so each pot held about 20 to 30 gallons, and all six about 120 to 180 gallons
- **up to the brim** (2:7): to the very top
- **draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast** (2:8): dip some out now and carry it to the man in charge of the feast; **bare** (2:8): carried
- **whence** (2:9): from where; **bridegroom** (2:9): the man getting married
- **set forth** (2:10): serve; **well drunk** (2:10): had plenty; **worse** (2:10): not as good
- **this beginning of miracles** (2:11): the first miracle; **manifested forth his glory** (2:11): showed who He is and how great He is; **believed on him** (2:11): trusted in Him

Read out loud: John 20:30–31. John tells us why he wrote down signs like this one: "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." **Son of God** means God Himself, come in the flesh as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). John 2:11 shows it working: Jesus showed His glory, and His disciples believed on Him.

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Jesus' mother told Jesus the need ("They have no wine," 2:3) and then told the servants to do whatever He said (2:5). What can we learn from her about bringing needs to Jesus?
2. The servants were told to fill pots meant for washing and carry some to the man in charge (2:6–8). The Bible doesn't say what they thought; it says "they bare it." Where is God asking you to obey before you see the reason?
3. They filled the waterpots "up to the brim" (2:7). What does "to the brim" obedience look like in your schoolwork, your home or your prayer life?
4. The man in charge didn't know where it came from, but the servants knew (2:9). Why do you think the ones who obeyed got to see the miracle up close?
5. Jesus' first miracle met a family's need at their wedding. What does that show you about how Jesus cares for ordinary needs?
6. John 2:11 says the miracle "manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him." What has Jesus done in your life, or in the Bible, that helps you believe on Him?

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4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words: in John 2:11, **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. In John 2:5, **whatsoever he saith unto you** means "whatever He says to you."
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say John 2:11 this week; keep working on John 2:5 next week too.

5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "John wrote these signs down 'that ye might believe' (John 20:31). Whatsoever He says to us, we do it. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

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6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What is one thing God's Word tells me to do that I have only been doing halfway?
2. What would doing it "up to the brim" look like this week?
3. Write a short prayer asking Jesus to help you do whatsoever He says, even before you see why.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: pick one thing from your journal and do it all the way, to the brim. Each time you pour a glass of water, remember: "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, You showed Your glory in Cana, and Your disciples believed on You. Help us believe on You too, and do whatsoever You say, all the way, even before we see why. Thank You for caring about our needs and for making a way to save us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Told the Bible's way: students read John 2:10 as it is written. Keep the focus where John puts it: Jesus "manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him" (2:11). If a student asks more about the wine, answer simply with what the verses say, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor.

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