Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Turns Water into Wine

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus has great power, so we do whatever He tells us.
Bible passage: John 2:1–11. Read it before class.
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, 6 clear plastic cups, a bucket or pitcher of water, a small cup for scooping, a towel, 6 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at John 2:5 and John 2:7. Set the 6 clear cups in a row on the towel.

1. Opening game: Do It All (5 minutes)

Give the kids instructions with two or three parts: "Touch your toes, clap two times, and sit down." "Stand up, turn around, and wave." Everyone has to do every part, in the right order. Make the instructions a little longer each time. Then ask: *Was it hard to do every part? Did anyone do only half?* Say: "Today we will meet some helpers who did everything Jesus told them to do, all the way to the top!"

2. Bible story: Jesus' First Miracle (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 2, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

One day there was a **marriage**, a wedding, in a town called **Cana**, in the land of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there (John 2:1). Her name was Mary (Matthew 1:16). Jesus and His disciples, the men who followed Him, were invited to the wedding too (2:2).

Then there was a problem. They ran short of wine. Jesus' mother came to Jesus and said, "They have no wine" (2:3). Jesus answered that His hour, His time, had not come yet (2:4). Then His mother turned to the **servants**, the helpers at the wedding. **Read John 2:5 from your Bible:** "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." Say: "That means, 'Whatever Jesus tells you, do it!'"

Standing there were **six big waterpots made of stone**. The Jews used water from pots like these to wash and be clean (2:6). Each pot was big. It held "two or three firkins." A **firkin** is about 10 gallons, so one pot held about 20 to 30 gallons of water! That is a lot of water to carry.

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The story continues: Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the waterpots with water." **Read John 2:7 from your Bible:** "And they filled them up to the brim." Say: "The **brim** is the very top. The servants did not fill them halfway. They filled them all the way up!"

Then Jesus said, "Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast" (2:8). That means, "Now dip some out, and carry it to the man in charge of the feast." And the servants did it (2:8).

The man in charge tasted it. It was not water anymore! The Bible calls it "the water that was made wine" (2:9). He did not know where it came from, but the servants who dipped out the water knew (2:9)! He called the **bridegroom**, the man getting married, and said, "thou hast kept the good wine until now" (2:10). That means, "You saved the good wine until now!"

This was the very first **miracle** Jesus did. A miracle is something only God can do. Jesus showed His **glory**, how great He is, and His disciples **believed on him**. That means they trusted Him (2:11).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where was the wedding? *(In Cana of Galilee, John 2:1)*
2. What did Jesus' mother tell the servants? *("Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it," 2:5)*
3. How many waterpots were there? What were they made of? *(Six, made of stone, 2:6)*
4. How full did the servants fill the waterpots? *(Up to the brim, the very top, 2:7)*
5. What did the disciples do after Jesus' first miracle? *(They believed on Him, 2:11)*

4. Memory verse: Six Strips (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 strips up in order: *This beginning of miracles / did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, / and manifested forth / his glory; / and his disciples / believed on him. John 2:11.* Explain the old words: **this beginning of miracles** means His very first miracle, **manifested forth his glory** means He showed how great He is, and **believed on him** means they trusted Him. Read the verse together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The servants did whatever Jesus told them, and they saw His great power. Jesus can do what no one else can do. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
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 a grown-up asks you to do something, do it all the way, "up to the brim." Remember: "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Jesus turns water into wine word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/wedding-at-cana-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/wedding-at-cana-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/wedding-at-cana-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/wedding-at-cana-worksheet), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/wedding-at-cana), or **Fill to the Brim:** the 6 clear cups on the towel are the six waterpots. Kids take turns scooping water from the bucket with the small cup and pouring it into the cups, until every cup is full up to the brim. Count the cups together: six, like the six waterpots (John 2:6). Say: "The servants filled them all the way to the top, because Jesus said so." Use water only, and keep it on the towel.

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You for Your great power. Help us do whatever You tell us, all the way, like the servants did. 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). Keep the focus on Jesus' power and on obeying Him. If a child asks more about the wine, answer simply with what the verse says, and encourage the child to talk with their parents and pastor.

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