

the life of
Jesus

Date: 2.9.25 | Title: Jesus' First Miracle | Scripture: John 2:1-12

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students:

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.
God wants us to live for His glory.
God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.
The Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus

High School Students:

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.
God wants us to live for His glory.
God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.
Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.
Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.
The Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus



MEMORY VERSE

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

1 John 4:9



INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Ask the students if they've ever witnessed a "miracle." This could be a last second score to win a game, getting an A on a test they weren't prepared for, or even something they saw but can't explain. Explain to them that today, we'll be talking about Jesus' first miracle.

OR

Play a game of "trash-ketball" using some crumpled up paper and the trash can. Set up a "miracle" shot and see if any students can make it. Then tell them that we'll be talking about Jesus' first miracle today.



BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Over the past several weeks, we have been learning about the life of Jesus. God fulfilled His promise to send the Savior when Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. Jesus was born to parents who were faithful to the law and Jesus recognized quickly that His purpose was to fulfill God the Father's plans. Jesus was baptized as an act of obedience to God and a relation to the sinners He came to save. After Jesus' baptism and His public identification as "God's beloved Son", the Holy Spirit anoints and empowers Jesus. Jesus' temptation by the devil in the wilderness is the last preparatory event before his public ministry begins. Jesus called ordinary men to follow Him and become His disciples who would serve and travel alongside Jesus. They were eventually given power to perform miracles and healings as they spread the gospel.

The Gospels record about 35 miracles of Jesus, which fall into four different types: healings (evidence that the kingdom of God has arrived), exorcisms (Jesus overpowers and crushes the kingdom of Satan), raising the dead (the kingdom of God is one of life and death will be defeated), and nature miracles (God is renewing the whole created order). See the attached lists for examples of the four categories of miracles. Today we will study Jesus' first miracle or "sign"- turning water into wine.

In the Gospel of John, the first miracle of Jesus occurs on the "third day" following His encounter with Philip and Nathanael (John 1:43-51). John records eight miracles throughout his gospel, each one referred to as a "sign" – a miraculous event meant to confirm Jesus' identity as the Messiah and Son of God. This first miracle takes place at a wedding in Cana, where John also introduces Jesus' disciples (John 2:2). While the term "disciples" is used here, in other gospels, they are sometimes called "apostles." Mary, the mother of Jesus—never identified by name in John—shows a deep, faithful awareness of her Son's divine nature, fully believing that He is the promised Messiah (Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-51). She may have thought the moment had come for Jesus to reveal His identity publicly. Given her instruction to the servants (John 2:5), Mary might also have had some formal role in the event, indicating a level of responsibility in the proceedings.



BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

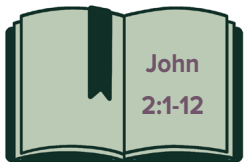
The situation at the wedding becomes critical when the hosts run out of wine, a social embarrassment that would reflect poorly on the groom and could be seen as a symbol of spiritual barrenness. In Jewish culture, wine was associated with joy and God's blessing (Psalm 104:15; Proverbs 3:10; Matthew 26:29), so the shortage may symbolize a failure of divine provision. Mary's request for Jesus to intervene implies she expects a miracle to resolve the issue. Jesus, however, addresses His mother as "Woman" (John 2:4), a respectful but distancing form of address, signaling a shift in their relationship. This term, which appears again in John 4:21 and 19:26, is not rude, but it marks a clear distinction between His earthly role as a son and His divine mission. Jesus' reference to His "hour" (John 2:4) is crucial, as it indicates the divine timing of His mission, which ultimately points to His death and resurrection. At this point, Jesus had to be recognized not just as Mary's son, but as the Messiah. His miracles, including this one, are meant to gradually reveal His divine identity, away from the misconceptions many had about the Messiah.

In obedience to Jesus' instructions, the servants fill the water pots with water, which Jesus miraculously turns into wine (John 2:7-8). This wine, when tasted by the headwaiter, is far superior to the wine initially served, defying the typical custom of saving the best wine for the beginning of a feast. Jesus' action directly challenges the established social norms, correcting an unethical practice. This miracle not only reveals His divine power, but it also underscores His role as the Sovereign Creator, able to control the material world, and as the merciful God who provides abundantly for His people's needs.

The term "sign" is significant in John's Gospel. Unlike the other gospels that focus on Jesus' "power," John uses "sign" to highlight the deeper meaning behind each miracle, revealing Jesus' messianic character and divine identity. These signs are designed to lead people to faith, confirming Jesus' authority and the truth of His message (John 20:31-32). The miracle in Cana, like all the signs in John, is not merely an act of power but a revelation of who Jesus truly is. Following this miracle, John notes that His disciples believed in Him, suggesting that this was the pivotal moment when they began to recognize His true identity. The large quantity and superior quality of the wine (John 2:6, 10) emphasize the exceptional nature of Jesus' work, displaying His glory and His role as the generous, merciful provider for those who follow Him.

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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Locate the scripture in the Bible: John 2:1-12

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth from the voice of different authors. Our story today is found only in the book of John.

TELL
THE
STORY



Tell the story:

One day Jesus, his disciples, and his mother, Mary, went to a wedding in Cana. During the party, the wine ran out, so Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." Jesus said, "Dear woman, why are you telling me about this? The time for me to show who I really am isn't here yet." Mary told the servants, "Do what he tells you." There were six stone jars nearby. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, he said, "Now pour some out and take it to the person in charge of the dinner." The servants did what Jesus told them to.

Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson

When the person in charge tasted the water that had been turned into wine he called the groom over. The person in charge didn't know where the wine had come from. He said to the groom, "Everyone brings out the best wine first. They bring out the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink, but you have saved the best until now."

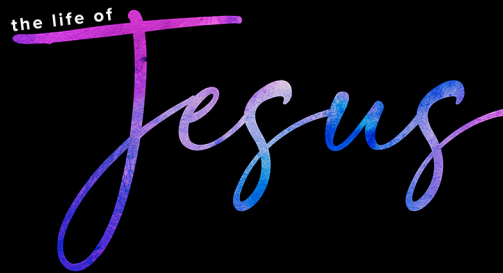
What Jesus did in Cana was the first of his miracles. He showed his glory by doing this and his disciples believed in him.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Share the GOSPEL: Jesus's mighty works are empowered by the Spirit of God and are closely connected to his teachings about the kingdom of God. These miracles demonstrate that Jesus is indeed the Messiah and that God's mighty power is at work through him

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...





ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

1. Describe what we have learned about the life of Jesus through the last several weeks.
2. What was Jesus’ first miracle or sign?
3. Why does John call miracles signs? What are they signs of? Why is this important?
4. What is Mary’s knowledge about who Jesus is? How do we know what she already knows?
5. How does Mary use her knowledge of Jesus as Messiah to try and orchestrate what happens at the wedding? How does Jesus respond to her? Why?
6. How does this miracle go against social norms? What does this teach us about Jesus?
7. How does Jesus go about making more wine?



QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

8. How do Jesus' disciples respond after the miracle?
9. What four categories do Jesus' miracles fall into?
10. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
11. What does the story teach me about myself?
12. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
13. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
14. How does this story help me live on mission?



More Miracles of Jesus

Jesus's Healing Miracles

Peter's mother-in-law:	Matt. 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39
Man with leprosy:	Matt. 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-15
Paralyzed man:	Matt. 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26
Man with withered hand:	Matt. 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11
Bleeding woman:	Matt. 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-29; Luke 8:43-48
Deaf mute:	Mark 7:31-37
Blind man:	Mark 8:22-26
Blind Bartimaeus:	Mark 10:46-52; Matt. 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43
Centurion's servant:	Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10
Two blind men:	Matt. 9:27-31
Woman crippled for 18 years:	Luke 13:10-17
Man with dropsy:	Luke 14:1-6
Ten men with leprosy:	Luke 17:11-19
Royal official's son at Cana:	John 4:46-54
Paralytic at Bethesda:	John 5:1-18
Man born blind:	John 9:1-41
High priest's servant:	Luke 22:49-51; John 18:10-11

Jesus's Resuscitation Miracles

Raising Jairus's daughter:	Matt. 9:18-26; Mark 5:22-24, 35-43; Luke 8:41-42, 49-56
Raising widow's son at Nain:	Luke 7:11-16
Raising Lazarus:	John 11:1-45



More Miracles of Jesus

Jesus's Exorcism Miracles

Possessed man in synagogue:	Mark 1:23-27; Luke 4:33-36
Gadarene demoniac(s):	Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39
Daughter of Canaanite woman:	Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30
Demon-possessed boy:	Matt. 17:14-20; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43
Blind, mute possessed man:	Matt. 12:22; Luke 11:14
Mute possessed man:	Matt. 9:32-34

Jesus's Nature Miracles

Calming the storm:	Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25
Feeding of 5,000:	Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-15
Walking on water:	Matt. 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21
Feeding of 4,000:	Matt. 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-9
Fig tree withering:	Matt. 21:17-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-25
Coin in fish's mouth:	Matt. 17:24-27
First catch of fish:	Luke 5:1-11
Turning water into wine:	John 2:1-11
Second catch of fish:	John 21:1-14



PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus as the Savior of the world. Thank You for teaching us about who You are through the signs we read about in John's Gospel. Help us share the good news with those around us and tell others about the love of Jesus. Amen.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Play a game of Bible drill using the gospels.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

Talk with your class about which church mission partners you would like to work with over the course of the year.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD

- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD

- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND

- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?