

Session 5

Jesus gives his best

Children learn that Jesus always gives his best to his children, never second-best

Scripture: John 2:1-12, Matthew 4:23

Supplies

- 1 Table in front of the room
- 8 glasses, they must not be transparent and filled with; water (2), lemon juice (2), apple juice (2) and grape juice (2)
- Blindfolds
- Red and blue pieces of cloth for flags
- A marshmallow fish; some sand; a piece of cloth (as examples of other miracles)
- Characters you will need (adapt it according to the size of your group):
 1. Mom: cloth over her head
 2. Jesus: cloth tied diagonally across his body
 3. Waiters: each with a piece of cloth over their arm
 4. Headwaiter: chef's hat (you can staple white cardboard together)
 5. Cupbearer: jacket, bowtie, fancy cup
 6. Guests: feathers, masks, jewellery, ties
 7. Cup that can be used as the empty wine glass; jug with red colouring to be used as the new wine
 8. 6 Water jugs for the 6 water vases

Preparation: Use a bowl/jug that is transparent with red colouring in it, try and "hide" the food colouring so it is not visible to the children. This jug will be the one used for the new wine.

- Copies of the colouring picture, water jug, stationery
- A4-paper, paper plates
- Scissors, split pins

This session may be difficult to teach in communities where addiction is a problem. It is very important to understand the context of Jesus' miracles. He does not change water into wine to approve alcohol abuse. He does not approve over-eating either when He multiplies the bread and fish. But if this context is a problem, feel free to share any other miracle of Jesus.



Welcome

"Picking" Game:

Choose 2 volunteers and give each one a flag, one red and one blue. The volunteers must each stand in opposite sides of the room. The rest of the group must pick which side they belong to when you call out the following items to choose from.

For example:

- Sunshine vs. Thunderstorm
- Chocolates vs. Chips
- Oros vs. Creme Soda
- Popcorn vs. Smarties

- Pizza vs. Pasta

Play a “Fear Factor”-game and ask for 2 volunteers. Blindfold the volunteers and have them taste the same liquid simultaneously from the prepared cups. Select a winner by seeing who shouts out the right answer first.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Baby powder steps – the leader steps into the flat dish with baby powder and walks around the room, alternating big and small steps. The rest of the group must follow the leader by stepping directly into their footsteps until you all reach the same destination.



Word

Ask the group who can remember what the previous session was about.

We listened to the story where Jesus called his disciples to follow Him. Who can remember the name of one of the disciples? (Give time for answers.) We ended the session with (Matt 4:23) where Jesus went through the province of Galilee. He taught the people in the temple and He told them the Good News Message that God is King of us all. He also healed the sick and cured the lame.

Today we are going to be part of the first miracle that Jesus did. We read it in John 2. Maybe you can guess what it is? It was at a wedding. What happens at a wedding? (Choose a few volunteers as they answer the question and hand them props to help the story play out as you tell it.)

Scripture: John 2: 1–12

(The characters now perform the story as you tell it.)

A man and a woman got married in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus, his disciples and his mother were all there. (What are disciples? They are people who followed someone and learned everything from them.) When there was no wine left (*the child that is the waiter, can tip the jug for all to see that it is empty*), Jesus’ mother said to him: “They have no wine left.” “Why are you telling me this?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” Jesus’ mother then told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” The Jews had rules about ritual washing, and for this purpose six stone water jars were there, each one large enough to hold about a hundred litres. Jesus said to the waiters, “Fill these jars with water.”

(Pour water in the jug with the red colouring – this will turn the water red as a symbol of the new wine Jesus made.)

They filled them to the brim and then he told them, “Now draw some water out and take it to the headwaiter in charge of the feast.” They took him the water, which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it. He did not know where this wine had come from (but the waiters whom had drawn out the water knew); so he called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have had plenty to drink, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!”

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how you would’ ve felt to be a guest at this wedding
2. I wonder which part in this story was most important to you
3. I wonder why Jesus performed this miracle

This was the first miracle that Jesus performed. He did it in the town called Cana in Galilee. He did this for people to see that He was God and that is the reason why the disciples believed in Him. (What is a miracle? A miracle is a sign that shows Jesus is God. But the most important part is that He does this to show God is in control.) I have

a few clues with me about other miracles that Jesus did while He was on earth. Can you guess what these miracles were? (Marshmallow fish – Bread and fish multiplied; bit of sand – healing of the blind; piece of cloth – lepers were healed)



Working and Playing

Give children the opportunity to choose one of the possibilities mentioned and spend creative time on it.

- Give each child 2 paper plates or 2 circles with the jug printed on one. They must colour the jug and then cut out the place on the jug where the logo should go. They must now colour half of the second page blue and the other half red and connect the two paper plates/circles one on top of two with a “split pin”. As you turn the back paper, the logo will change from blue water into red wine.
- Give each child a colouring picture or a clean piece of paper to draw the best part of the story on.

Closing prayer to end the sessionn

Give children a chance to bless each other or the leader can bless the children. Interaction is always good and fun.



