A wedding full of wonder

John 2:1-11

> Jesus' signs reveal his glory and invite us to trust him.

What children should be able to do by the end

Retell Jesus turning water into wine and explain that this sign helped the disciples recognize his greatness.

Read & gather

Read aloud: John 2:1-11. Memory passage: John 2:11.

Basic kit: Bible, paper, pencils or crayons, child-safe scissors, glue or tape. Paper and pencils; no liquids needed.

Before class, read the full passage and the activity example. Practice unfamiliar names and choose an age adaptation.

Words to explain

Sign: an action that points beyond itself. Glory: the greatness and goodness of God made known.

Your 60-minute flow

0-5 minutes | Welcome & wonder

Use Welcome & wonder on page 2. Invite answers and allow children to listen quietly.

5-10 minutes | Worship & prayer

Offer thanks to God. Sing a familiar, church-approved song or speak a line of praise. Listening quietly is welcome.

10-15 minutes | Bible & memory

Find the reading together. Read the memory passage from your Bible. Repeat short phrases with simple gestures.

15-27 minutes | Discover the story

Read the named verses. Use the three retelling paragraphs and The Jesus connection on page 2.

27-35 minutes | Talk it through

Ask the three questions on page 2, one at a time. Give thinking time and use the answer guidance.

35-50 minutes | Create & practice

Use the purpose, example, and steps on page 3. Then use the separate Student Discovery Page on page 4. Unfinished drawing may go home.

50-55 minutes | Respond & pray

Connect the big idea with a choice this week. Offer voluntary prayer or quiet reflection.

55-60 minutes | Remember & take home

Use the learning check on page 3 and repeat the main teaching. Tidy supplies and give caregivers the Family Connection on page 5.

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John 2:1-11

Welcome & wonder

Show a paper arrow. Ask: Is the arrow the destination? Explain that a sign helps us notice something beyond itself. John calls Jesus' miracles signs.

Tell the story

Read the passage in your preferred translation. NIV is our reference translation; this is an original retelling, not a Bible quotation.

1. Jesus, his mother, and his disciples attended a wedding in Cana. During the celebration, the wine ran out. Mary told Jesus about the problem. Jesus answered that his hour had not yet come, and Mary told the servants to do whatever he told them. The story introduces Jesus acting according to his Father's purpose, not merely following people's demands.

2. Six stone jars stood nearby for ceremonial washing. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. They filled the jars to the brim. Then he told them to take some to the master of the banquet. The water had become wine, and the master was surprised by its quality. The servants knew where it had come from.

3. John tells us that this was the first of Jesus' signs, performed in Cana. It revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. We may wonder about the details of how it happened, but John gives us the main point: look at Jesus and trust him. This is not a recipe for making miracles happen or a promise that every party problem will disappear.

The Jesus connection

> The signs lead us toward Jesus' greatest work: his death and resurrection for us.

Talk it through

What problem arose at the wedding?

The wine ran out.

What did the servants do?

They filled the jars with water and took some to the banquet master as Jesus directed.

Why does John call this a sign?

It revealed Jesus' glory and led his disciples to believe in him.

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John 2:1-11

Signs that point to Jesus

Why children are doing this: Children distinguish the facts of the miracle from the message it points to.

Teacher example: Draw six jars and write: Jesus changed water into wine. Beside the arrow, write: This showed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Teacher instructions: Explain one step at a time and help children try it. Children may draw or tell you their answers.

1. Draw six simple jars on a page. Label the page John 2:1-11.

2. In pairs, draw an arrow from the jars toward a central statement: Look at who Jesus is.

3. Ask children to add three story facts: jars filled with water, servants following Jesus' instructions, and disciples believing in him. Then ask what those facts show about Jesus.

4. Compare a sign that gives directions with this biblical sign. Share what the miracle tells us about Jesus rather than pretending to perform it.

Grades 1-2

Count the six jars and draw the water being poured in.

Grades 3-5

Explain the difference between describing what happened and explaining why John recorded it.

Offer movement breaks, a quiet space, picture choices, or an adult scribe. Adapt to the child, not only the grade.

Teach with care

Name the wine accurately and simply; no tasting, alcohol, or water-changing demonstration is needed. Avoid turning the story into a trick.

Prayer invitation

Jesus, help us see your glory and trust you.

Check what children learned

Finish: This miracle is a sign because __.

Student Discovery Page: answer guide

1. The wine ran out. 2. They filled the jars with water and took some to the banquet master as Jesus directed. 3. It revealed Jesus' glory and led his disciples to believe in him.

Drawings and personal responses vary. Look for understanding rather than polished artwork.

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John 2:1-11

Name: _____ Date: _____

Jesus' signs reveal his glory and invite us to trust him.

Explore the story

1. What problem arose at the wedding?

2. What did the servants do?

3. Why does John call this a sign?

Draw & discover

Draw the jars and an arrow pointing to what we learn about Jesus.

Think about it

Why is the identity of Jesus more important than a spectacular effect?

You can write, draw, point, or tell someone your answer.

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John 2:1-11

A LITTLE FAITH, EVERY DAY

> Jesus' signs reveal his glory and invite us to trust him.

Open the Bible together

Read John 2:1-11. Let your child retell one part. Write down a question to ask a trusted church leader; you do not need to have all the answers.

Start a conversation

What does John want us to notice about Jesus?

Try this during the week

Notice road or building signs together. Read John 2:11 from a Bible and discuss what this sign points to.

A prayer to share

Jesus, help us see your glory and trust you.

Remember together

Look up John 2:11 in your family Bible. Read a short phrase, repeat it together, and ask what it means.

Keep it simple and welcoming

A few unhurried minutes are enough. Children may respond with words, drawings, or gestures. Prayer is an invitation; quiet participation belongs too.

This curriculum serves mixed groups in grades 1-5 in an evangelical setting. Retellings and prayers are original. NIV is our reference translation; use your church's preferred Bible translation. No extended Bible text is reproduced.