

STORY

The Marriage at Cana - John 2:1-12

8/2/2003

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, through the miracle at the wedding at Cana help us to believe that He was not only a good man, but also the Son of God sent to be our Savior. Strengthen our faith in Him that we may turn to Him both for forgiveness and for whatever needs we may have. And having asked, help us to leave our needs in His powerful hands to meet them according to His will. You, O Lord, established the estate of marriage from the 6th day of Creation. Today marriages are so much under attack and so many homes lie shattered by thoughtless sin and selfishness. I pray that you would impress on us Your desire for a Christ centered home where Jesus Christ's blessing will rest, even as He blessed with His presence and glory that marriage at Cana. In Jesus Name we ask, Amen.

VOCABULARY

Manner of purification - Jewish customs and religious ceremonies used large quantities of water for washing and cleaning. Guests would bathe their feet upon entering the house; people would wash before and after every meal, and various household objects would be cleansed. The water was stored in large pots.

Master of the feast - he was in charge of the servants and the arrangements for the feast. Wine and food were prepared under his supervision before being given to the guests.

Manifested His glory - revealed, or made known His divinity, that He was God as well as man.

OUTER AIM

Jesus changed water into wine to show He is God.

INNER AIM

Jesus' miracles strengthen our faith that He is God and will take care of all our needs.

BACKGROUND

Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp. 94-99)

Although Jesus is God, in order to save us He took the body of a human being and lived under the laws of God. When He walked this earth those thirty-three years of His life, people saw Him primarily as a human being. Yet at times, Jesus let people see that He was also true God as He helped people with their problems and the effects of sin. This helped strengthen the faith of those who believed in Him as their Lord and Savior. It also further convicted those who rejected Jesus. (John 20:30-31; 10:37-38)

John 2:1

- ▶ A wedding was an especially joyous occasion for the Jews.
- ▶ The bride was led to the home of the groom.
- ▶ After the wedding, the feast would begin. This wedding feast might last for more than a day.
- ▶ Then the bridal couple went to the bridal chamber.
- ▶ This was the third day after John the Baptist sent Andrew and John to follow Jesus.
- ▶ This Cana is traditionally placed about 4 miles north east of Nazareth, Jesus' home town. See Rupprecht for connection of Galilee with Is 9:1-2.
- ▶ Jesus' mother Mary was there, but no mention is made of Joseph.

v. 2

- ▶ Jesus and His disciples attend the wedding.
- ▶ Five disciples had been called at this point: Andrew, Peter, John, Philip and Nathaniel (Bartholomew).
- ▶ From this many see Jesus' continued blessing on the estate of marriage and of celebrating weddings as special occasions.
- ▶ This event brings us to see that God favors marriage; the drink of choice may be alcoholic, but we know God doesn't approve of drunkenness.

v. 3

- ▶ Wine, often mixed with water, was used commonly throughout Palestine since much of the water was not good for drinking. And at a celebration it was also appropriate.
- ▶ Whether too many guests had come or the family had insufficient funds, the celebration (which lasted sometimes for days) had used up all the wine.
- ▶ Mary came to Jesus, requesting His special aid for the family when they ran out of wine.
- ▶ From Jesus' reply in the next verse, we sense that Jesus thought she was out of line with her expectations of Him.

v. 4

- ▶ Note that Jesus calls her only "woman" (like the modern term, "lady") and not "Mother." His mild rebuke lets her know that in matters of His work, she does not have authority over Him.
- ▶ (This passage condemns the false Catholic belief that Mary is "Co-redemptrix" or the "Queen of Heaven" or in some way equal to, or even greater than Jesus.)
- ▶ Jesus knew full well the situation and had in mind what He would do and when He would do it.

v. 5

- ▶ Mary accepted the rebuke of Jesus, yet showed her faith in Him with this request to the servants of the house.
- ▶ Her request implied the thought, "No matter how ridiculous it may seem, do it." Cf. 2 Kings

5:1-18

v. 6

- ▶ See vocabulary notes. Note the quantity: 120-130 gallons.

v. 7

- ▶ The servants thus far did what Jesus commanded, carrying water to the house to fill the jars to the brim.

v. 8

- ▶ Here the servants' faith was tested.
- ▶ Taking water to be used as wine to the master of the feast could get them into serious trouble.
- ▶ Despite that, they again obeyed Jesus and took the water to the Master of the feast. (see vocabulary notes.)

v. 9

- ▶ The man in charge of the feast suddenly found an abundant source of wine, whereas shortly before the wine had been gone.
- ▶ Only the servants knew where the wine had come from, the miracle performed by Jesus.

v. 10

- ▶ The wine that Jesus so graciously and miraculously provided not only was real wine but was better in quality than what had been previously served.
- ▶ This gift to His hosts served their needs and would be a gift they could keep on using for months or years.

v. 11

- ▶ This miracle was the first one that Jesus performed.
- ▶ Other traditions and writings speak of Jesus doing miracles in His youth, but this scripture contradicts them.

- ▶ He did this miracle a) to serve the needs of others and b) to reveal to people that He was the Christ, the Son of God, prophesied to be their Savior.
- ▶ We see that through this sign, Jesus' disciples believed in Him, as Jesus revealed the glory of His person, His purpose, and His work.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear God, Our Father in Heaven, help us to see through the awesome miracle He did that Jesus was not only a good man but also the Son of God come to earth to be our Savior. Teach us to turn to Jesus for our needs, knowing that in the way that is best for us, He will meet those needs, as He helped those people at Cana in their time of need. O Lord, bless our homes with your presence too and strengthen our trust in You for forgiveness of sins and all that we need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

ACTIVITY

You may want to have the children glue page 4 on a separate sheet before doing this activity to make the vase more stable.

APPLICATIONS

1. Jesus used a miracle to strengthen the faith of His people. God uses this story and the rest of God's Word to make our faith stronger as well. We cannot make genuine wine instantly from water, so what does this show us about Jesus?
2. Review why Jesus performed miracles. He did not do them to show-off, just to impress people with His power. He did not do them for selfish reasons. He did them to a) prove that He was the Son of God, true God and True Man in one person, and 2) to serve people in time of need. The miracles were signs that pointed to Jesus as the One who could make satisfaction for the sins of the world. Jesus' primary work was to die on the cross for the sins of the world, so the miracles were never intended to overshadow Jesus' purpose.

**** Note:** The discussion of whether God performs miracles today may be beyond the scope of the time given to your lesson. God still does miracles today though we may fail to recognize them as such. In our time of need, we leave it to God to provide whatever method of deliverance He considers best as we pray "Thy will be done." Because we have God's Word, we do not need to be shown miracles today to believe in God or Jesus as our Savior. (Luke 16:16-31; John 20:30-31; Romans 10:17)

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson. For possible discussion: Genesis 2:22-24 - God created the first marriage.

Lower

Psalms 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Middle any of the above and...

Genesis 2:24 - Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Upper any of the above and...

John 20:30-31 - And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

HYMN CHOICES

"Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall" (TLH 625 all)

"Commit Whatever Grieves Thee" (TLH 520: 1,4, 5-9)

"The Lord My Shepherd Is" (TLH 426 :1-6)

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-11

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child

This Bible lesson is about a wedding in a town called Cana. Since Mary and Jesus knew the bride and groom, they were invited to the wedding. Jesus' helpers or disciples were invited, too. Everyone was happy to see the bride and groom get married.

All the guests went to the groom's house for a big celebration party. Sometimes wedding celebrations would last for many days. At this wedding dinner, they ran out of wine long before the celebration was over. Now all the guests would have to drink water.

Mary told Jesus, "They have no wine." Mary knew Jesus could help.

Jesus assured Mary that God provides for all needs when He knows the proper time to help has come.

Mary told the servants, "Whatever Jesus says to you, do it."

Jesus told the servants to fill the water pots with water. This was a big job. There were six huge water pots and each one would hold as much water as a bathtub. The servants did as Jesus said and filled each pot to the very brim with water.

Then Jesus said, "Take some out now and take it to the master of the feast." The servants obeyed.

Something strange and wonderful happened to the water. It turned into wine! The master tasted the wine but did not know where the servants had gotten it. The servants knew, though, that it had come from the stone pots that they had filled with water. They knew that Jesus had changed all that water into wine.

The master called the bridegroom and said, "Every man serves his best wine first, and then later serves the cheaper wine, but you

have kept the best wine until now!"

This was the first miracle Jesus did. He changed the water into wine to show the glory of God. Jesus' disciples believed in Him as the Son of God.

Passage

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16

Hymn TLH 625 v. 2

Oh, blest the house where faith ye find
And all within have set their mind
To trust their God and serve Him still
And do in all His holy will!

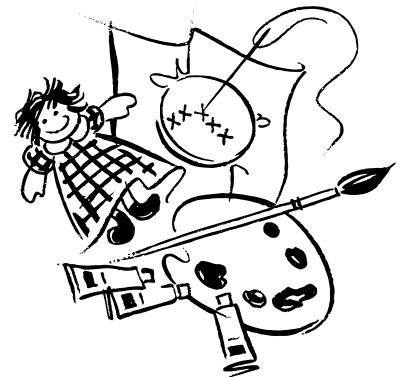
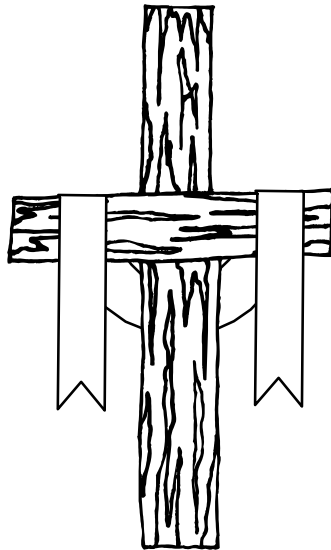
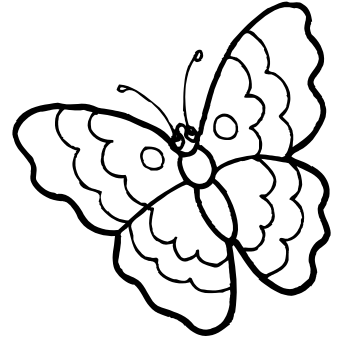
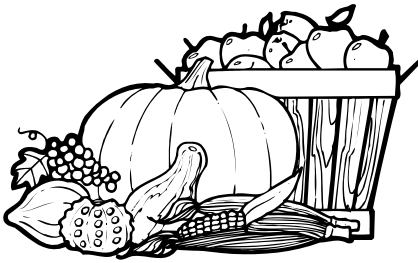
Prayer

Dear Jesus, We thank You for showing us by Your miracles that You are God. Help us to pray to You about all our needs. Help us trust that, as God, You can always help us. Thank You for taking away our sins. We are so happy that You have promised to take all Your children to heaven one day. Please keep us faithful until that day. Amen

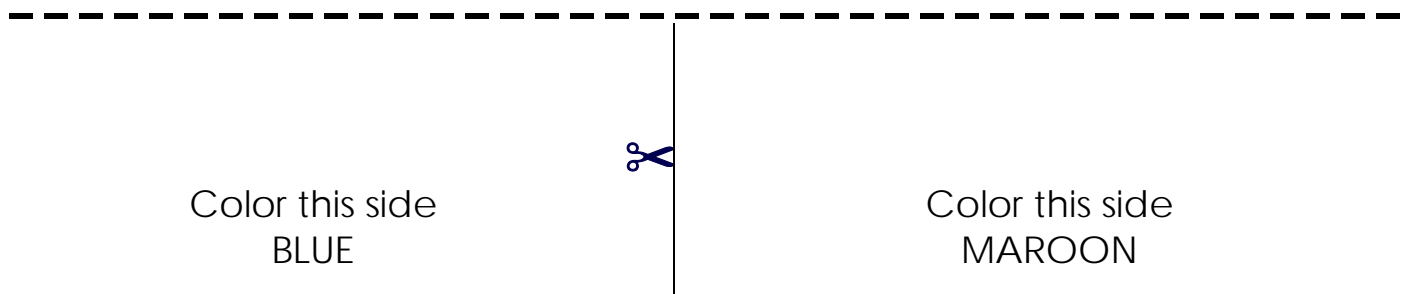


Classroom Activity - Help the children color all the gifts God has given them. Talk about each one. Circle the one that is the most important Gift.

"And my God shall supply all your need
according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19



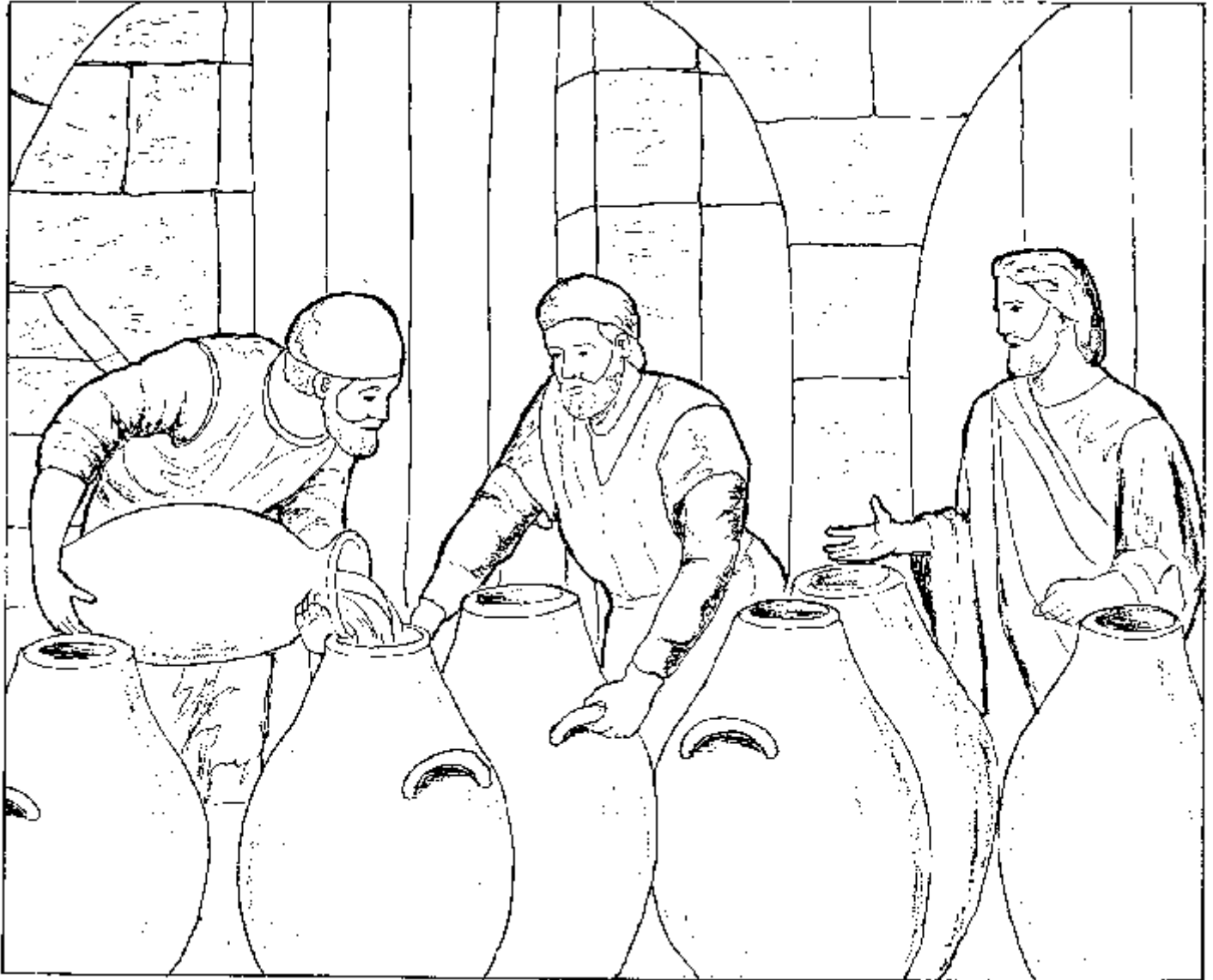
Classroom Art Activity - Color the strip at the bottom of the page according to the color directions, then cut it out. Color the water pot below, cut out the top oval, and make the slits. Position the blue/maroon strip in the slits behind the water pot so that it changes from water to wine.





The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-11



The Story

This Bible story is about a wedding in a town called Cana. Since Mary and Jesus knew the bride and groom, they were invited to the wedding. Jesus' disciples were invited, too. Everyone was happy to see the bride and groom get married.

All the guests went to the groom's house for a big celebration (party). Sometimes wedding celebrations would last for several days. At this wedding dinner, they ran out of wine long before the celebration was over. Now all the guests would have to drink water.

Mary told Jesus, "They have no wine." Mary knew Jesus could help.

Jesus assured Mary that God provides for all needs when He knows the proper time to help has come.

Mary told the servants, "Whatever Jesus says to you, do it."

Jesus told the servants to fill the water pots with water. This was a big job. There were six huge water pots and each one would hold as much water as a bathtub. The servants did as Jesus said and filled each pot to the very brim with water.

Then Jesus said, "Take some out now and take it to the master of the feast." The servants obeyed.

Something strange and wonderful happened to the water. It turned into wine! The master tasted the wine but did not know where the servants had gotten it. The servants knew, though, that it had come from the stone pots that they had filled with water. They knew that Jesus had changed all that water into wine.

The master called the bridegroom and said, "Every man serves his best wine first, and then later serves the cheaper wine, but you have kept the best wine until now!"

This was the first miracle Jesus did. He changed the water into wine to show the glory of God. Jesus' disciples believed in Him as the Son of God.

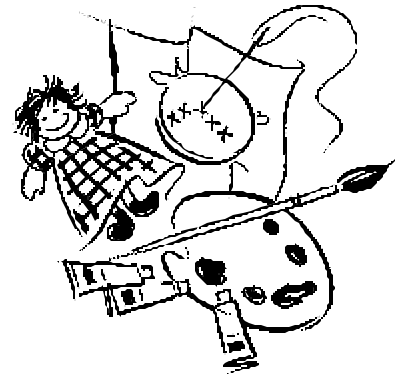
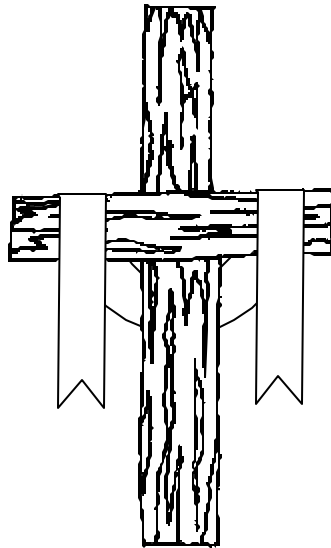
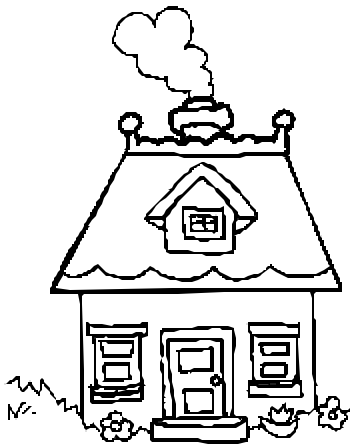
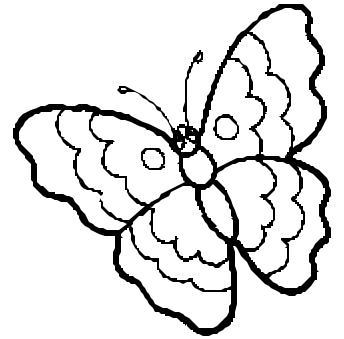
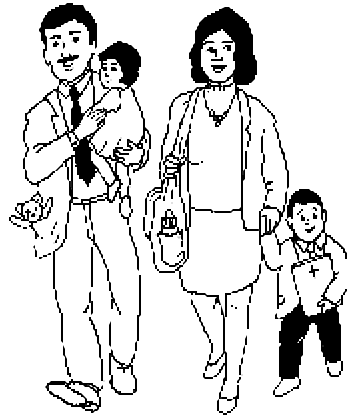
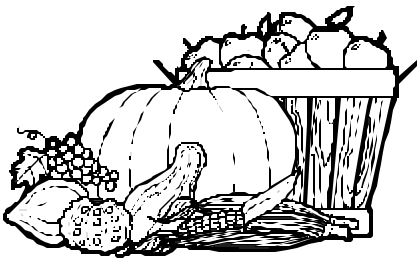
Passage

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:16

Color the Gifts from God

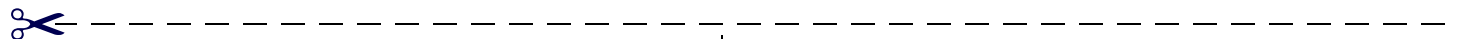
"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19



Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank You for showing us by Your miracles that You are God. Help us to pray to You about all our needs. Help us trust that, as God, You can always help us. Thank You for taking away our sins. We are so happy that You have promised to take all Your children to heaven one day. Please keep us faithful until that day. Amen.

Activity - Color the strip at the bottom of the page according to the color directions, then cut it out. Color the water pot below, cut out the top oval, and make the slits. Position the blue/maroon strip in the slits behind the water pot so that it changes from water to wine.



Color this side
BLUE

Color this side
MAROON

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-12



The Story

Have you ever gone to a wedding? Imagine having Jesus be a guest. Today we will read how Jesus helped at a wedding.

Once there was a wedding in a town called Cana. Since Mary and Jesus knew the bride and groom, they were invited to the wedding. Jesus' disciples were invited, too. Everyone was happy to see the bride and groom get married.

All the guests went to the groom's house for a big celebration. In those days wedding celebrations would sometimes last several days. At the wedding dinner, they ran out of wine long before the celebration was over. Now all the guests would have to drink water.

Mary knew Jesus could help. She told Jesus, "There is no wine."

Jesus assured Mary that God provides for all needs when He knows the proper time to help has come.

Mary told the servants, "Whatever Jesus says to you, do it."

Jesus told the servants to fill the water pots with water. This was a big job. There were six huge water pots and each one would hold as much water as a bathtub. The servants did as Jesus said and filled each pot to the very brim with water.

Then Jesus said, "Take some out now and take it to the master of the feast." The servants obeyed.

Something wonderful happened to the water. It turned into wine! The master of the feast tasted the wine. He did not know where it came from. The servants knew that it had come from the stone pots that they had filled with water. They knew that Jesus had changed all the water into wine.

The master called the bridegroom and said, "Every man serves his best wine first, and then later serves the cheaper wine, but you have kept the best wine until now!"

This was the first miracle Jesus performed. He changed the water into wine to show His glory as God's Son. His disciples believed in Him as the Son of God.

Bible Passages

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16

**"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19**

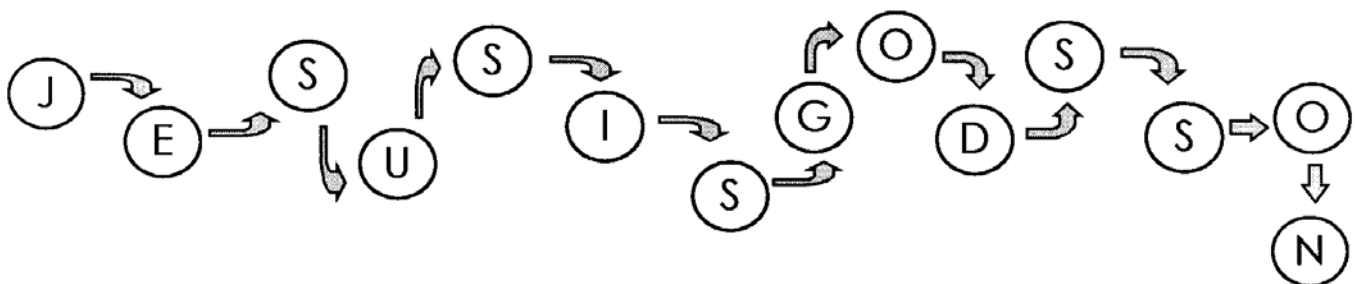
Recalling the Story - Fill in the blanks with the missing words, then copy the underlined words in order below. Find out who the disciples believed Jesus was.

1. When I am in need, I pray to _____, Lord Jesus.
2. Our prayers _____ always heard by Jesus.
3. Jesus has _____ power to answer our prayers.
4. Jesus _____ is our Lord and Savior.
5. Jesus came into _____ world to save sinners.
6. God's _____ died on the cross to take away our sins.
7. Jesus' death paid for all _____ our sins.
8. Because He is God, Jesus rose again on _____ third day.
9. Some day we will be _____ with Jesus in heaven.
10. Praise _____ from whom all blessings flow!

Word Box
the
of
You
the
God
are
Son
the
living
Christ

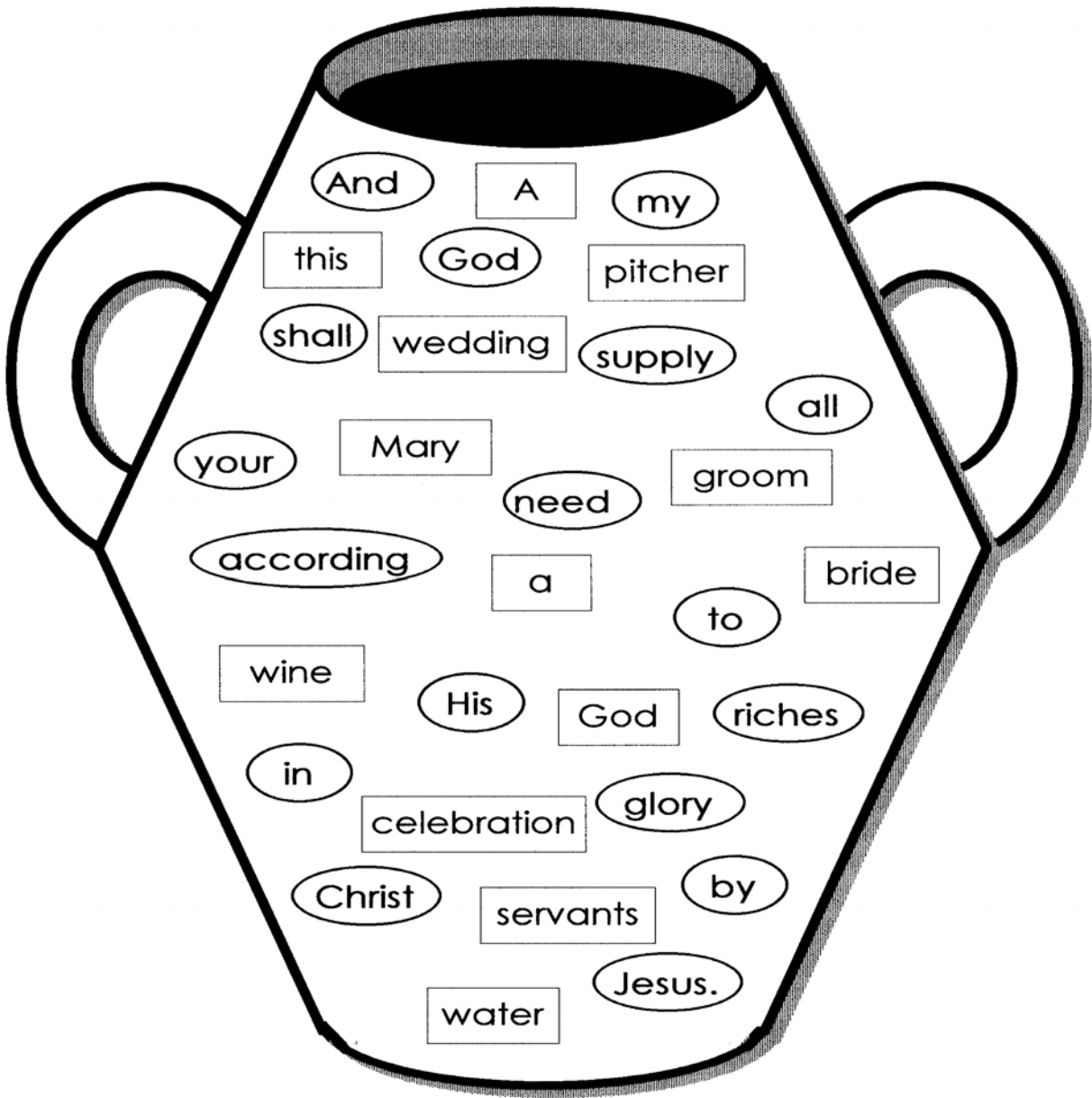
" _____, _____
_____. " Matthew 16:16

Something to Think About - Follow the arrows that lead to each letter. Write the letters in order in the blanks below.



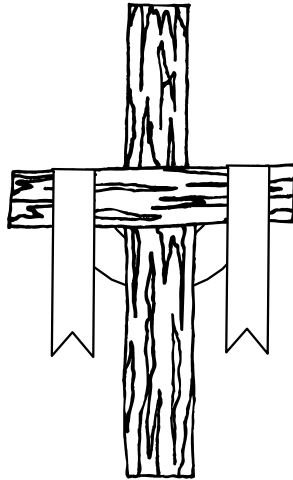
_____!

Activity - Starting at the top of the jug, write only the words that are circled in the blanks below the jug.



Philippians 4:19

Color the Gifts from God



Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

We thank You for showing us by Your miracles that You are God. Help us to pray to You about all our needs. Help us to trust that, as God, You can always help us. Thank You for taking away our sins. We are so happy You have promised to take all Your children to heaven one day. Please keep us faithful until that day. Amen.

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-12

For what things so you pray?

To whom do Christians pray?

Why do you believe that God can answer your prayer?

Prayer

Dear God,

Our Father in Heaven, through this awesome miracle that Jesus did, help us to see that He was not only a good man but also the Son of God come to earth to be our Savior. Teach us to turn to Jesus for our needs. Help us to know that He will meet those needs in the way that is best for us. O Lord, bless our homes with Your presence and strengthen our trust in You for forgiveness of sins and all that we need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



The Wedding at Cana - John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. {2} Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. {3} And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no more wine." {4} Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." {5} His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

{6} Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the

manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. {7} Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. {8} And Jesus said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

{9} When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. {10} And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets



out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then that which is inferior; but you have kept the good wine until now."

{11} This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. {12} After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.



Outer Aim - Jesus changed water into wine to show He is God.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks.

1. A wedding took place at Cana. Cana was in _____.
2. When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother went to Jesus and said,
" _____."
3. Jesus said to her, "My _____ has not yet come."
4. Jesus told the _____ to fill six pots with _____.
5. He then told them to take some to the _____.
6. When the master tasted the water, it was already made into
_____.
7. This miracle manifested (showed) Jesus' _____ and His disciples
_____ in Him.

What God Tells Us - Mark each statement (T) if it is true or (F) if it is false and make the false statements true.

1. ____ Jesus changed water into wine because His mother told Him to.
2. ____ Jesus changed water into wine to impress the wedding guests.
3. ____ Only God could change water into wine.
4. ____ Jesus was only a man.
5. ____ Because Jesus is God, we can be sure He will protect and provide for us.
6. ____ Jesus had to be true God in order to pay for our sins.
7. ____ This lesson teaches us that Jesus will give us whatever we ask for, no matter what.
8. ____ The disciples' faith was strengthened after witnessing this miracle.
9. ____ God tells us about Jesus' miracles to strengthen our faith also.

Passages - Look up the following passages and insert the missing words.

Psalm 50:15 - Call upon _____ in the day of _____; I will
_____ you, and you shall _____ Me.

Genesis 2:24 - Therefore a man shall leave his _____ and
_____ and be _____ to his wife, and they shall become
_____ flesh.

Inner Aim - Jesus' miracles support our faith that He is God and will take care of our needs.

Hymn - TLH 426

The Lord my Shepherd is,
I shall be well supplied.
Since He is mine and I am His,
What can I want beside?

He leads me to the place
Where heav'nly pasture grows,
Where living waters gently pass
And full salvation flows.

If e'er I go astray,
He doth my soul reclaim
And guides me in His own right way
For His most holy name.

While He affords His aid,
I cannot yield to fear;
Though I should walk through death's dark shade,
My Shepherd's with me there.

Amid surrounding foes
Thou dost my table spread;
My cup with blessing overflows,
And joy exalts my head.

The bounties of Thy love
Shall crown my following days,
Nor from Thy house will I remove
Nor cease to speak Thy praise.

Which stanzas of hymn 426 might you use to explain to someone that Jesus will provide for their needs? Explain why you chose each of those stanzas.

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, passages, and the hymn you read today to complete the following activity.

A friend comes to you and explains that her grandmother is very sick and is discouraged that her prayer to God for her to get better doesn't seem to be working. What could you say to your friend?

Prayer - Write a prayer that expresses the things you learned from this lesson. You may work with other members of the class.

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-11

If you saw someone wearing this uniform, what would it tell you that they were?

How might you feel if you saw this man when you were in danger?

Why would you feel this way?

Prayer

Dear God, Our Father in Heaven, through this awesome miracle that He did, help us to see that Jesus was not only a good man but also the Son of God come to earth to be our Savior. Teach us to turn to Jesus for our needs. Help us to know that He will meet those needs in the way that is best for us. O Lord, bless our homes with Your presence and strengthen our trust in You for forgiveness of sins and all that we need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



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Notes

Recalling Details - In the space provided, retell the story in your own words.

What the Story Tells Us- Outer Aim

Jesus changed water into wine to show He is God.

Discussion Questions

1. What from the story points out that Jesus approves of and blesses marriage?
2. Look up Genesis 2:22-24 and explain what God says about marriage here.
3. Why did Jesus rebuke His mother Mary when she wanted Him to help with the

problem at the wedding?

4. What should this teach us about how God answers prayer?
5. What from the miracle of Jesus changing water into wine shows us that when Jesus helps us, He does so abundantly?
6. At the end of this story, what two reasons are given for Jesus performing this His first miracle?
7. Think of some other miracles Jesus performed. How do these miracles strengthen our faith in Jesus as God?
8. Because we believe Jesus is God, what do we know that He did and can do for us?

What God Tells Us - Inner Aim

Jesus' miracles support our faith that He is God and will take care of our needs.

Passages - Circle only the passages that apply to today's lesson. Explain how they apply.

Psalm 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Genesis 2:24 - Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

I Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus.

John 20:30-31 - And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

Hymn

Look at hymn 520:1,4, 5-9. Choose two of those stanzas and explain how they apply to our lesson today.

Prayer

Besides the Inner Aim, two other ideas were expressed in today's lesson: that marriage is blessed by God, and that Jesus provides exactly what we need at exactly the right time. Write a short prayer that expresses these three thoughts.