



Date: _____

Series: Jesus is Our Helper
Winter Year 1, Lesson 37

Jesus Changes Water to Wine

Bible Event: John 2:1-11

Take Home Point: *JESUS HELPS US – *Give Jesus your problems.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus died on the cross so he could pay for our problems.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God sent his son, Jesus, into the world to help us. The greatest help he could give us is to give his life for us which he did when he went to the cross. Before that time, he did many miracles to help people to show he really was God's son. His first miracle was changing water into wine at a wedding. Just like Jesus helped the people at a wedding, Jesus can help us. The children will remember: ***JESUS HELPS US – *Give Jesus your problems.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings and their actions of love as they actively learn God's Word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *The Beginner's Bible, The Story of Jesus and His Miracles,* Copyright Sony Music Entertainment, 1995

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Hi, boys and girls. I've been traveling and finding out wonderful things that God has been doing. I've been learning how God sent us his own son, Jesus, to help us. Maybe you've heard about Jesus. Maybe you already know that Jesus came along time and gave his life his life for us when he died on the cross. That took away our sin. That was the best thing God could do to help us. But I would like to tell you about something special Jesus did to help people while he was alive here on earth, before he went to the cross.

Let me look in the Bible. Here it is. Jesus changes water into wine. My goodness! This is Jesus' very first miracle. A miracle is when God does something so special that the only way to explain that it happened is to say, "God did it." Jesus' first miracle was at a big party. Let me tell you about it. What I have here is a wedding picture. (Show wedding picture.) How many of you have been to a wedding? Raise your hand. After the wedding, did you go to a big party? Raise your hand. Back when Jesus lived on earth, people loved to have big parties when two people got married. One time Jesus went to one of these wedding parties with his disciples or followers. His mother was also there; and many of his friends. Everyone was having a happy

time. Jesus was glad to be a part of the celebration. (Tambourine or noise maker)

But then there was a PROBLEM!!! And this was a big problem. You see, they were right in the middle of this huge wedding celebration and... you won't believe it. They ran out of wine!!! Wine is like juice and it was an important part of their celebration. This would be just like going to someone's birthday party and when it's time to pass out the cake and ice cream, this is what you'd get. (Show empty plate and spoon.) Yes, it would be like running out of birthday cake and ice cream. It was very embarrassing to the new husband and wife who just got married. People didn't know what to do. They needed some help.

Then Jesus' mom had an idea. She went to Jesus and told him what happened. She said, "They have no more wine. Won't you please help your friends at a time like this?" Then she told the servants at the party to do whatever Jesus said.

Do you think Jesus was going to help them with this problem? Of course he was. He told the servants to go fill up six huge jugs with water. They were this tall – taller than you - (Use hands to show about 4 ft. high) and there were six of them. Can you count to six? (Count out loud: One, two, three, four, five, six.) The servants filled them to the top, just like Jesus said. As soon as they were filled with water, Jesus told the servants to pour some of it out to see what happened. This is what happened. (Pour bottled water into empty glass and then stir the glass with the spoon containing dried food coloring. It should turn color.) **Wow, everyone said. The water had changed into wine. It was wonderful tasting wine. (Drink some of it, if you'd like.) Jesus' very first miracle was to turn water into wine for everyone at the party. He helped his friends with a big problem.**

Jesus always wants to help us with our problems just like he helped his friends in the Bible. Always remember, *JESUS HELPS US – Give Jesus your problems.

Pray and have the children repeat each phrase:

Dear God, (repeat)
Thank you for being here. (repeat)
Thank you for sending Jesus. (repeat)
Jesus helps us. (repeat)
So we give him our problems. (repeat)
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! (repeat)
Amen. (repeat)



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Kool-aid: Have individual cups with a small amount of Kool-aid in the bottom. Have each child take a cup and have an adult come around and fill each cup with water from a pitcher so the children can see the water change into colored Kool-aid, just like Jesus did with the wine. Also have a party food of some kind like cake, snack cakes, sundae cups, etc.

Drama Zone: Have the children create a reception or act out a wedding. Provide dress-up clothes, a table to decorate, streamers, party hats, plates, napkins, etc.

Felt Zone: Put characters together that show a party.

Messy Zone: Provide a large sheet of butcher paper for the children to paint a mural on or to create a party banner. Label the party, "A Jesus Party." Provide sponge brushes and paint.

Option: Provide a wedding themed piñata for the kids (with much supervision).

Play Zone: Any type of party game. Example: "Duck, Duck, Goose"

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books.

Music Zone: Provide musical instruments to accompany lively children praise and worship tapes of your choosing. The children can follow one another in a circle dance.

Coloring Zone: Provide coloring page with markers and crayons.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes on stage and doesn't want to talk because he is pouting. When asked why, he finally explains that his sister, Judy, got invited to a birthday party and he didn't. He doesn't think that's fair because he loves birthday parties. The presenter mentions that perhaps we can help, because we learned that when we have problems, we can bring them to Jesus and he helps us. Bubba doesn't think Jesus could help us with party problems. The presenter suggests otherwise and proceeds to tell him about how Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding party. The children help tell the story. Bubba notes that that happened when Jesus was a man here on earth, so how can he help him today? The presenter points out that Jesus is still alive and is right here with us even though we can't see him. Jesus loves us very much and helps us with our problems. He helps us with our big problems like taking away our sins by dying on the cross. And, then he helps us with our little problems by giving us ideas to solve them. Bubba asks, "What ideas?" The presenter asks Bubba if he thought about the fact of who else was invited to the party. "Yes, all the girls are." Bubba replied. And what are they doing asks the presenter? "They're spending the night... all ten girls are." The presenter asks Bubba, "Do you really want to go to a 'sleep over' when you're the only boy?" Bubba suggests that he would have them all play football. The presenter says that probably wouldn't work. Instead, it would be better for him to play football with his dad while Judy is spending the night with her friends. Bubba is much encouraged and feels better. When we pray to Jesus and give him our problems, many times he helps us understand them and solve them in better ways. Remember, ***JESUS HELPS US – Give Jesus your problems.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- video: *The Beginner's Bible: The Story of Jesus and His Miracles*—order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/157330736X/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance> or from: <http://www.sonymusicstore.com/store/catalog/MerchandiseDetails.jsp?merchId=406&skuld=28137>
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Travelers gear
 - Bible
 - wedding picture
 - tambourine or noise maker
 - empty plate and spoon
- optional: jugs
- red and blue food coloring
- water

Action Zones:

Snack:

- Kool-aid
- cups
- party food

Drama:

- dress up wedding clothes
- streamers
- party hats, napkins
- table

Play:

- party game

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- musical instruments
- praise and worship tapes

Messy:

- large sheet of butcher
- paint
- sponge brushes

Felt:

- characters in a party

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books