



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers' Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 34

Water into Wine

Take Home Point: *Jesus brings joy to everyday life. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 2:1-11

Key Verse: 1 Peter 1:8, "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy..." (NIV)

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Jesus turning water into wine as a sign he is the Son of God.
- Jesus helped at the wedding and also cares about our everyday lives.
- Jesus is interested in our fun and wants to have a relationship of joy with us.




We will help kids feel:

- Joy in knowing Jesus helps them every day.
- Inspired to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

We will help kids do:

- Participate in a birthday party that runs out of drink.
- Think of how Jesus can be with them in fun times.
- Learn an illusion trick to turn a clear drink into a purple drink.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION | PAGE # | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY | SUPPLIES NEEDED |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes)  | 3 | Children will participate in a birthday party that runs out of drink. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • snack cakes • cups • lemon-lime soda |
| Large Group (20-30 minutes)  | 3 7 9 10 | Overview Puppet Presentation: “Joy for Gordy”—Gordy is upset because he was left out at a party. Video and Teaching: <i>The Gospel of John—John 2:1-11 (Water into Wine)</i> Jesus’ first miracle was a sign revealing that he is the Son of God. Puppet Conclusion: “Joy for Gordy”—Gordy learns that Jesus brings joy to everyday life. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • orange construction vest • construction hat • work boots • sign on stick that says “Watch for the Signs” (p. 12)—on front and “Water into Wine” (p. 13)—on back • two or four chairs • cardboard car front • two clear pitchers (one with dried food coloring in it) • water • four clear glasses • video, <i>The Gospel of John</i>, Visual Bible International, 2003 (order from www.visualbible.com) |
| Small Group Application (20-25 minutes)  | 4 | Children will discuss how Jesus brings joy to everyday life and learn a trick to remember his miracle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spoon with dried food coloring (two drops blue/two drops red) • cups • lemon-lime soda • clear container/pitcher |

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: snack cakes (optional: substitute cupcakes or birthday cake), can or container of clear drink such as lemon-lime soda (not enough for entire group), cups

Let's have a fun day today and talk about birthday parties. If you could have a birthday party and do whatever you wanted, what would you do and who would be there?

Pass out cake as children discuss. Pass cups out to each child and fill cups with the drink. Be sure to run short so there is no drink left for yourself. Then say:

Oh, no, we're short on drink. I'm a little thirsty. I don't have any more right now. I guess I'll have to wait until large group is over. Let's finish our stories first and I'll try to find some more drink when we move to the next room.

After the discussion, say:

Would you want Jesus to come to one of your parties? Why or why not?

Do you think that Jesus likes birthday parties?

Today we will discover that Jesus wants to spend time with us in everyday ways including the fun times. **Jesus brings joy to everyday life.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: "Joy for Gordy"—Gordy is upset because he was left out at a party.

Video and Teaching: *The Gospel of John—John 2:1-11 (Water into Wine)* Jesus' first miracle was a sign revealing that he is the Son of God.

Puppet Conclusion: "Joy for Gordy"—Gordy learns that Jesus brings joy to everyday life.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?/Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to John 2:1-11 in their Bibles.

At what event or feast did Jesus perform his first public miracle? *(John 2:1. A wedding.)*

Why do you think Jesus' mother told him the wine was gone? *(She knew he was God's Son and could take care of the situation.)*

Even though Jesus said, "My time has not yet come." (John 2:4.), why do you think Mary told the servers to do whatever Jesus told them to do? *(Maybe she had faith that Jesus would still take care of the situation even though she didn't know how he would do it.)*

What did Jesus tell the servers to do? *(John 2:7-8. To fill the purification jars with water and take some to the person in charge.)*

What was unusual about this wine? *(John 2:10. It was better than the first wine served.)*

Who knew Jesus changed the water into wine? *(John 2:9, 11. The servers, Mary, and Jesus' disciples.)*

What was the result of this miracle? *(John 2:11. Jesus made his glory public or revealed that he was God's Son, and his disciples believed in him.)*

Going deeper: (if time allows)

Who do you think the disciples thought Jesus was before this miracle? *(Maybe a great teacher or prophet.)*

Why do you think it seems only a few people saw this first miracle?

Why do you think Jesus chose a wedding feast to perform his first miracle? *(Maybe because a wedding and wine is associated with joy, and Jesus wanted us to know he came also to give us joy.)*

Why do you think Jesus provided so much wine (six large jars filled to the brim)? *(Maybe to show that he not only provides for our necessities but also luxuries. Maybe Jesus gave the wine as a gift to last a long time or because the bride and groom were poor and could have sold it.)*

What can we learn for ourselves from the words, “Do whatever he tells you”? *(When we trust in Jesus, we can expect to be changed. When we run out of something, we can go to Jesus and have faith to do whatever he tells us.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Remember the birthday party we talked about in Warm-Up time? If Jesus were coming to that party, what do you think he would bring?

As God’s Son, Jesus is with us even when we can’t see him. When we have faith in him, the Bible says he lives in our lives and does amazing things.

Our key verse from 1 Peter 1:8 says, “*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...*” (NIV)

Think of things you do every day, even things like chores and homework as well as the fun things. If you were reminded Jesus is with you during those times, how would that bring you joy?

Let children discuss and then say:

Wine in the Bible was a symbol of joy. Here’s a fun way to remember the Bible event and even share it at home.

Application Activity:

Supplies: cups, clear container filled with lemon-lime soda, spoon with dried food coloring (2 drops red/2 drops blue)

I found some more soda and this time I would like to make it even more special.

Take the spoon with dried food coloring and stir the drink so that it turns purple. Pour some into each child's cup.

Would you like to know how to do this so you can do it at home?

Explain that yesterday, two drops of red food coloring and two drops of blue food coloring were put onto the spoon and let dry overnight. When this spoon was used to stir the drink, it made changed colors. Kids can do this trick at home with their parent's help. Today's *God Talk at Home* sheet has the instructions on how to do it.

Closing Prayer:

Have kids pray for their needs or thank God for some things that bring them joy. Then pray:

Dear God, It is so awesome that you care about us so much that you sent Jesus to earth to experience things like we do. Thank you for the **joy that you bring to our everyday lives.* Please help us to remember that you care about those everyday things, too. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs on Believers' Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front. Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

This series continues using "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.



Supplies: orange construction vest and hat, sign on stick, two or four chairs, cardboard car front, two clear pitchers, water, four glasses

Joy for Gordy Puppet Presentation

The presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest and work boots. He is holding a sign that says "Watch for the Signs." The back of the sign says "Water into Wine." He will be careful to only show the front for now until the back is needed for the interview.

Presenter: Hi, kids! How do you like the outfit? I got a new job this week. Some pretty special road construction is happening and I've got a job

holding signs to show people where to go. This highway is called “Believers’ Highway.” I’ll tell you more about that later. Should we call Gordy today?

Kids call Gordy, but Gordy does not enter.

Presenter: I guess he didn’t hear us. Let’s call him again.

Gordy comes out moping and speaking in a dry, parched voice.

Presenter: What’s wrong, Gordy?

Gordy: What do you mean, “What’s wrong?” My voice is so parched I can hardly talk.

Presenter: You need a drink?

Gordy: That’s the whole point. I needed a drink and I didn’t get one.

Presenter: I thought you guys were having a party with cake and soda.

Gordy: We were but I got left out. I...I...my voice is giving out. (*Exaggerating.*) I’m too thirsty to talk.

Presenter: Gordy, it must be terrible.

Gordy: It is... Wow! What happened to you?

Presenter: You mean this outfit? I’m working in road construction as a sign holder.

Gordy: There’s no road here!

Presenter: With a little bit of imagination, there is.

Gordy: With a little bit of imagination, I can imagine I have a drink, too!

Presenter: We’ll get to that, but right now let’s imagine we are on the “Believers’ Highway.”

Gordy: You mean like believing in Jesus?

Presenter: Yes.

Gordy: I already do that!

Presenter: This is still important because, over the next weeks, we will look at the events of Jesus' life recorded in the book of John. There are signs along the way that show Jesus really is God's Son.

Gordy: I believe that!

Presenter: Do you also believe Jesus, God's Son, wants to have such a close friendship with you that he would want you to invite him to your party?

Gordy: I can't have a party! I don't have anything to drink!

Presenter: Be patient, Gordy. I think we'll be able to fix that. Why don't you watch what happens when Jesus attended a party.

(To audience.) I will ask for a couple of volunteers to come sit in our car when the movie is finished and answer questions about it, so be sure to listen carefully.

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International 2003. Show the clip covering John 2:1-11. Order from: www.visualbible.com.

Signs Along Believers' Highway

John 2:1-11 – Water into Wine

Presenter: I need some volunteers. I need at least one shepherd and two kids to come up and get in the car and get ready to drive.

Have volunteers come onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving the car and the shepherd is in the back. Then continue.

On "Believers' Highway," kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let's go for a ride!

I've got a rhyme on my sign. On the front of the sign it says, "Watch for the Signs" and the back says, "____ (water) into ____ (wine)". It rhymes with the front of the sign. So, do you want to guess the words that go in the blanks? The words describe the miracle in today's Bible event.

Allow for a few guesses. For a clue, you might say:

Sure wish I had some water...

Let's ask our people in the car a couple more questions. What was the reaction of the people to Jesus' miraculous sign? (*Amazed, happy, surprised.*)

Do you think Jesus is interested in the everyday problems people have?

Do you think Jesus has fun?

What did the disciples do in the end of the story? (*Put their faith in him.*)

Changing water into wine was Jesus' first miracle. In the Bible, wine is also a symbol of joy.

How do you think God felt when Jesus came into world to give his life for us so we can be with him forever? Maybe God is saying he is filled with joy over this. What an amazing thing he did by turning the water into wine. Just like this... (perform trick described below). He wants to fill us with his joy also.

Have an assistant bring a cart or tray onstage with four clear glasses, a clear pitcher filled with water and another clear pitcher with food coloring dried in the bottom of it. Pour the water into the other pitcher so it changes color. Pour the now colored water into the glasses.

Joy for Gordy

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Cool! How'd you do that?!?

Presenter: **It's a trick.**

Gordy: Can I have some of that? I'm dying of thirst!

Presenter: **Gordy, when you go back to your small group, your shepherd will share some of this with you and even show you how this trick is done.**

Gordy: Is that how Jesus did it?

Presenter: **Not quite. For us it is just a trick, for Jesus it was an amazing miracle. Jesus did this miracle to show he was the Son of God.**

Gordy: Is that the coolest thing he did?

Presenter: It was cool and it did show that he loves to give us joy. But, the best thing Jesus did was to give his life for us when he died on the cross and rose again. Because of that, he is with us now and brings us joy even today.

Gordy: That is pretty cool!

Presenter: Do you feel his joy in your life, Gordy?

Gordy: I think I do.

Presenter: Why don't you pray that we would all feel that joy?

Gordy: Okay. Dear Lord, thank you for Jesus showing signs that he really is your Son. Thank you that he gave his life for us. Help Jesus to be part of our lives every day so we can have lots of fun together and experience his joy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Watch
for the
Signs**

(Water)

into

(Wine)