

God Wants to Work a Miracle in You!

John 2:1-11

Lesson 5

Exploring Faith Bible Study Series

Lesson Purpose:

The purpose of this lesson is to demonstrate God's interest in the everyday activities of our lives. Jesus' first miracle took place at a wedding. He used His power to help a family not to be embarrassed. Jesus cares about our lives too. This lesson will help people to see when they put their trust in God He wants to bless them in every part of their lives.

Icebreaker:

Invite the group to think for a moment about this question: What is the most memorable experience you had at a wedding? Ask group members to share their responses.

Life Connection:

Use these questions to help your group members to begin to open up with one another, to think about their own lives. The answers to these questions need not be spiritual in nature. The intention is for practical real life responses.

- 1) What makes weddings so special? The commitment of the two people; the celebration; the love.
- 2) What makes weddings a difficult time? They remind me of my own failed marriage; the two people shouldn't be marrying; the sadness of children leaving their parents.
- 3) Why do people want their wedding to be so perfect? Because, hopefully, it will be the only one you have; because all of your friends and family are there; society makes such a big deal about them and all of the details.

Scripture's Answers: John 2:1-11

In this section the Life Application questions are now related to the passage of Scripture that is being used in this Bible Study. The answers to the following questions should come from the text as well as out of the individual's hearing and understanding of what they have heard read.

Have a member of the group read the Scripture passage aloud for all to hear. Make sure extra Bibles are available so everyone can follow along.

Introduction:

Jesus cared about the feelings of everyone involved in the wedding feast. He understood the cultural ramifications of the wine running out. He knew His friend would be embarrassed and the people in Cana would not forget what happened at the wedding. In Jesus' day wedding feasts would last many days and the bridegroom was supposed to supply enough food and drink for all of the guests for as long as the party lasted. It was a very expensive event and everything needed to run smoothly. When the wine ran out it was a cultural faux pas and could have caused the bridegroom much shame. Instead of letting that happen, Jesus worked a miracle. When Jesus went to the wedding feast in Cana He had not yet begun his ministry. When His mother came to Him, He told her this very thing. However, that did not stop Him from performing a miracle. Jesus took everyday objects—jars and water—at a common event—a wedding—and made them extraordinary. Jesus wants to do this in every person's life. When we slow down and take time to look at our lives it is easy to see God coming alongside of us transforming the common, everyday events into extraordinary life changing experiences.

4) Is there any significance in Jesus being at a wedding? He had friends; He did things that we do; No, I don't think so.

5) What was important about Jesus changing water into wine? It showed off His power; it made it possible for the party to continue; it made His mother happy.

Teaching Time:

Say to your group: "Jesus was attending a wedding just like you and I do. Although weddings are expensive today they were even more so in Jesus' day. The feast would last for many days and the guests who were invited ate and drank their fill. You can imagine how important keeping the tables full would have been to a groom. One of the reasons for such an extravagant feast was to pay back those who had provided a wonderful wedding feast for you to attend in the past. It would be terrible to run out of anything. Jesus understood this aspect of His culture and so when His mother came to Him, He did not hesitate to help."

6) If you had been one of the servants how would you have felt about Jesus? I would have thought He was crazy; been afraid of Him; worried that He didn't know what He was doing.

7) The servants did not know they were taking wine to the master, how would you have felt if you were carrying what you thought was water to the master of the banquet? Nervous; I would be embarrassed or

Scripture:

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then He told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

This, the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him.

(John 2:1-11)

my master would be; afraid that the master might beat me; worried about what was going to happen because of what I was doing.

8) The servants willingly took the water to the master, what does this say about them? They are very submissive; they have no rights; they aren't very smart; they always do what they are told.

9) What do you think the servants thought when they heard that the water they brought had miraculously been turned into wine? Relieved; amazed they had seen a miracle; impressed with Jesus' ability.

10) Why do you think this was Jesus' first miracle? He wanted to start with something easier than healing someone; it was the first time He was asked; because His mother wanted it and He wanted to please her.

Teaching Time:

Say to your group: "It is significant Jesus' first miracle happened at a wedding. All of the miracles Jesus did throughout His ministry were focused on helping other people. He healed people, He multiplied bread and fish so they could eat, and He raised people from the dead. Although turning water into wine may not seem as incredible as making a blind person see, it is still a very important miracle. Jesus showed He wasn't just interested in the big or spectacular, but also the small and seemingly nondescript."

11) Why is it significant in your life that Jesus turned water into wine? It shows He cares about things important to people; He wants to make my life go more smoothly; He knows about all of our needs.

12) The master of the banquet said the bridegroom had saved the best wine until last, what does this say about the miracle Jesus performed? He made it better than they could have imagined; He has good taste; He doesn't give second best.

Teaching Time:

Say to your group: "Jesus' first miracle shows us what the rest of His ministry is going to be like. When Jesus turned the water into wine He took very ordinary objects like water and jars at a very ordinary event, a wedding, and made them extraordinary. That is what God wants to do for all of us. Sometimes we will not see incredible miracles in our lifetime. We may not know someone who is healed. But God is still at work. He is at work in the ordinary things of our lives. When we choose to live our lives for Him we will see His hand in our lives wherever we look. We have to make the choice, though. You can't just hope the blessings of God will come no matter what you do; you have to live for Jesus. When you do, He will work a miracle in you!"

Reflection:

Invite the group to take a moment to reflect silently on the questions you are going to ask. These questions can be answered or you may choose to allow the members of the group to think about them.

13) Where do you need to see the hand of Jesus turning the ordinary things of your life into extraordinary things?

14) Have you been looking for “out of this world” miracles, missing the little ways God wants to bless you?

15) Will you choose today to live your life for Jesus so He can work a miracle in you?

Optional Activity Time:

As a way to make the reflection more meaningful in the lives of group members there are two activities to engage in. First, give the group time to write the answers to the reflection questions in a journal they can keep throughout the study time and the week to come. Second, send each group member home with these questions to think about and write about in a journal during the week. When the group gathers together the next time, break the group up into smaller groups and give them the opportunity to share what they have been thinking about since they last met.

Conclusion:

Take time to pray together before the group leaves. Make a point to allow anyone who is interested in sharing something they have learned from the lesson to share, and any questions to be asked.

Possible Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

We are amazed that You are interested in the little things of our lives. Help us to turn ourselves over to You so we can be changed. When we do help us not to only look for the great and incredible miracles but to know You are busy behind the scenes, everyday and in so many ways to work miracles in us. Thank You in advance for what we know You will do.
Amen.