



LESSON 4

JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Reveals that He Is Amazing

SCRIPTURE: John 2

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus and His disciples are attending a wedding in Cana when the wine runs out. Jesus turns water into wine, giving a great gift to the wedding guests and revealing to His disciples that He is amazing.

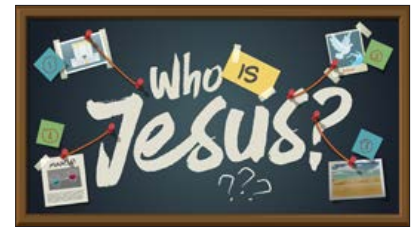
WORD OF WONDER: The Son is the exact likeness of God, who can't be seen. The Son is first, and he is over all creation. —Colossians 1:15

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: What is your idea of the most amazing party? Describe it!
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Colossians 1:15
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Responding in Worship: God Is Amazing!
- Blessing Your Kids



Notes! Use the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet each week to help kids stay engaged and remember what they are learning. Encourage kids to make notes, draw pictures, and write questions throughout small group and large group. This also provides parents with resources to keep the conversation going throughout the week!



[Who is Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Reveals that He Is Amazing

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WORD OF WONDER: Colossians 1:15

Do you know why leaves change color in the fall? As the nights grow longer, the tree reduces its chlorophyll production. Without its intense green, the carotenoids and anthocyanin (the secret to the oranges, reds, and purples) are revealed. Those colors were always there. They are merely “unveiled,” displaying scarlet, gold, and amethyst leaves in all their glory.

As you read John 2:1–11, keep that image in mind. All that Jesus is had always been there. But like the magnificent colors of fall leaves, His glory—majesty, abundance, amazingness—was hidden until just the right time.

How would you feel if you were Mary, who treasured her memories of angel visits, of shepherds and wise men, watching and waiting for the promises of Jesus’ birth to be fulfilled? Or what if you were one of Jesus’ disciples? How would you begin to process what you’d witnessed? Isaiah 53:2 reminds us that on the outside, Jesus looked ordinary. Yet in this moment, He revealed His power, His authority over creation, and His amazing glory.

The other wedding guests enjoyed the wine without knowing its source. But “his disciples believed in him” (John 2:11). I believe Jesus is still revealing His glory today. May each of us have eyes to see what may be hidden. May we not just accept the gifts but praise the giver.

—Lise Caldwell

Children’s Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 4 **FOR LEADERS**
JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus attended a wedding with His disciples. The wedding host was likely a friend of Jesus' family, since Jesus' mother was there. The person in charge of the dinner was not the host but oversaw the celebration.

WHAT?

During the wedding celebration, Jesus' mother came up to Him because the wine ran out. Jesus told some servants to fill stone jars with water, then dip some out for the person in charge. Jesus turned the water into wine, revealing that He is amazing.

WHERE?

The wedding was in Cana in the region of Galilee, north of Judea. Cana may refer to Kefar Kanna, about three miles from Nazareth, or Khirbet Kana, about eight miles from Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, so His family likely had friends in Cana.

WHEN?

Jesus turned water into wine early in His ministry. John calls it "the first of [Jesus'] signs" (John 2:11). Jesus had recently been baptized in the Jordan River, then tempted in the Judean desert.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' first sign of turning water into wine officially put Him on a trajectory that would lead to the cross. There, Jesus would again provide the figurative wine, pouring out His blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:28).

Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Reveals that He Is Amazing

SCRIPTURE: John 2

WORD OF WONDER: Colossians 1:15

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too! Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“What is your idea of the most amazing party? Describe it!” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **What’s the most amazing thing you’ve ever seen?**
- **Do you remember a time you felt amazed by something God has done? Tell about it.**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find John 2. Explain that John is one of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels are books at the beginning of the New Testament that tell us about the life of Jesus.

Read John 2:1–12 from an NIV Bible. Then discuss the following:

- **Why did Jesus go to the town of Cana?**
- **What happened at the wedding that was bad news for the people there?**
- **What did Jesus do about the wine running out?**
- **What do you think the servants were thinking when Jesus asked them to fill the big jars with water?**
- **Jesus turned water into wine! What does this show us about Him?**
- **When has Jesus done something amazing in your life?**

"Turning water to wine was the first of Jesus' miracles that the Bible tells us about. That day, Jesus revealed He is amazing! Let's take some time to thank Jesus for the amazing things He does and for who He is!"

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to share something they are thankful for from the past week or something amazing Jesus has done in their lives. Then spend some time praying, thanking Jesus for who He is and for how He reveals how amazing He is to each of you.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–10 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find John 2. Explain that John is one of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels are books at the beginning of the New Testament that tell us about the life of Jesus.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage. Encourage kids to use the *NOTES* page to follow along as you read and complete activities.

Invite three volunteers to help read the Bible passage from John 2:1–12. The first volunteer can read John 2:1–3, the second can read John 2:4–7, and the third can read John 2:8–12

- What do you think was most amazing about Jesus in God’s big story today?
- Why did Jesus and His disciples—His followers—go to the town of Cana?
- How many days did weddings last during Bible times?
- What unfortunate thing happened at the wedding? What did Jesus do about it?
- What does this miracle show us about Jesus?
- Jesus chose to do this miracle at a wedding, which was a time of great joy and celebration. What do you think this might show us about Jesus?
- When was a time you saw Jesus do something amazing in your life?

Make It Inclusive!

Kids who process and learn uniquely can find it difficult to answer open-ended questions. Help them by providing two answers to choose from. For example, list two things you noticed about Jesus in today’s story, and let them choose which they think is most amazing.

Jesus’ first recorded miracle was an amazing gift to the guests of the wedding. Jesus showed His followers more about who He is by doing something wonderful that blessed others. Let’s take some time to pray for each other and thank Jesus for being amazing.

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share prayer requests or praises. Encourage those who are willing to pray for some of the requests aloud. End the prayer time by thanking Jesus for revealing His glory and for the amazing things He does.

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. When Jesus turned water to wine, the Bible tells us He “revealed his glory” (John 2:11, NIV). As kids discuss the amazing things Jesus does, ask them if they know what the word *glory* means. If needed, explain that “God’s glory” refers to His majesty, abundance, and amazingness.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

"The Word of Wonder for the Who Is Jesus? series is Colossians 1:15. Today we saw how Jesus began to reveal that He is amazing. This verse tells us that Jesus is the perfect image of God because He is God! Let's read the Word of Wonder together.

Invite kids to form a circle, and then find Colossians 1:15 in their Bibles. Invite kids who want to read the Bible verse aloud to stand up. Everyone else can remain seated. Then read the verse numerous times, going around the circle and giving each kid who is standing a chance to read it aloud. The kids who remained seated can follow along in their Bibles as other kids read.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **What are some things you know about Jesus? What are some things He did? What is He like?**
- **What do the things you just listed tell us about God?**

Leader Tip: Some kids in your group may be new to church and the Bible. They may know very little about Jesus. That's OK! This discussion is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about who Jesus is! If a kid shares something about Jesus that you know is incorrect, thank them for sharing and gently present the correct information.

Word of Wonder Activity

SUPPLIES: mirrors (2 full-length or handheld), dry-erase marker and eraser

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Slide

Ahead of time, use a dry-erase marker to write the Word of Wonder on each mirror. Set both mirrors at one end of the room.

Leader Tip: If you don't have mirrors available, this game can also be done on a whiteboard—just write the verse out twice on opposite ends of the whiteboard.

This verse talks about how Jesus is the exact image, or likeness, of God. When people see Jesus, they see God! Mirrors reflect our image, right? So let's play a fun game with mirrors to help us learn the Word of Wonder!

Split the kids into two teams. Place both teams at the opposite end of the room from the mirrors. At your signal, the first kid on each team will run to the mirror, read the verse to himself, and then run back to his team. He must recite it aloud to his team before tagging the next person. (If some kids struggle to recite the verse on their own, that's OK! They can get help from their teammates.) The next person will then run to the mirror, read the verse, and then come back and recite it to everyone. When one team has had all their members recite the verse, they win the round. Play multiple rounds, erasing one or two words from the verse each time.

PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

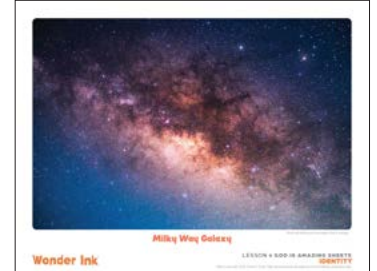
Responding in Worship: God Is Amazing!

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [God Is Amazing Slides Sheets \(1/SG\)](#), [Who Is Jesus? Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print the God Is Amazing Sheets.

"Jesus did an incredible miracle by turning water into wine. He revealed to His followers that He is amazing, and they began to realize that He is more than just a man. Jesus isn't here with us in the same way He was when He lived and walked on earth, but He is still with us through the Holy Spirit. And we see God's amazingness all around us all the time!"



One by one, show the kids the God Is Amazing Sheets. Pause on each one, inviting the kids to look closely and notice amazing things in each one. Consider asking them the following questions:

- **What do you notice in this photo?**
- **What is amazing about what you see?**
- **What does this image reveal, or show us, about God?**

Take time to reflect on each image and allow the kids to share their thoughts. Share your own reflections as well.

We worship a wonderful God, and He does wonderful things each and every day. We can see His amazingness revealed in creation and in our family and friends. We read in the Bible about the amazing things He has done. God's amazingness is all around us!

Give kids a chance to reflect on where they've seen God's amazing works in their own lives. Hand out blank sheets of paper and coloring utensils, and invite kids to draw something that represents what God's amazingness looks like to them. They may want to draw something abstract or something concrete from their lives. Allow them to draw whatever the Holy Spirit puts on their hearts. Consider playing music from the [Who Is Jesus? Elementary Spotify playlist](#) while kids draw.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. You may want to help younger kids think through this activity by giving them some suggestions. Maybe they've noticed God's amazing work in their garden at home or when they go on a walk. Maybe they've felt His amazing love through the love they feel from a family member or when they listen to a song about Jesus.

After a few minutes, invite some volunteers to share what they drew.