



LESSON 4

JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows that He Is Amazing

SCRIPTURE: John 2

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus and His followers 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 followers that He is amazing.

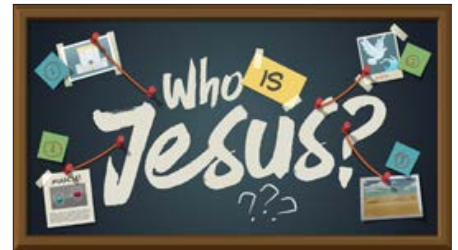
WORD OF WONDER: Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible. —from Colossians 1:15

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Never Better, What a friend
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Who is Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows that He Is Amazing

SCRIPTURE: John 2

WORD OF WONDER: From 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).



LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows that He Is Amazing

SCRIPTURE: John 2

WORD OF WONDER: From Colossians 1:15

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi, Tac! What have you been up to?

Tac the Cat: I'm so excited! I'm going to a cat wedding with my family!

Leader: That is wonderful! What a special thing to get to attend.

Weddings are great!

Tac the Cat: There is something I'm curious about ... I heard that we should bring a wedding gift to the people who are getting married, and I'm curious about what gift I should bring. How do I know what gift to get?

Leader: Well, they will appreciate any gift that comes from your heart. What do you think the couple would like?

Tac the Cat: Well, someone got me a cat treat for my birthday, and I loved it! Kids, what gift have you gotten that you really liked? *(Pause and allow kids to respond.)* Those are some great ideas! Maybe I'll find a really good cat treat and take that as the wedding gift!

Leader: You know, Tac, that reminds me of a story from the Bible when Jesus attended a wedding and gave a really special gift!

Tac the Cat: Really? What gift did Jesus give?

Leader: We'll learn all about it in our story today!

Tac the Cat: Oh, that sounds so interesting! I know it's going to be a good one. Now I've got to go find that cat treat and get ready to go to the wedding. Bye, kids!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever been to a wedding? What was it like? Allow the kids to respond. What makes a gift special? Have you ever gotten a gift that was amazing? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. We're going to learn today about a special gift that shows how amazing Jesus is.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS SHOWS THAT HE IS AMAZING**. Today we'll discover how Jesus shows that He is amazing!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

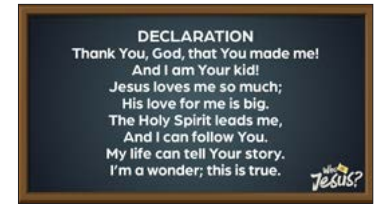
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example": **Dear God, thank You for being so amazing. As we listen to Your story today, help us grow closer to You and hear from You. Thank You for all the amazing things You do for us! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn about the first time that the Bible tells of Jesus doing a miracle. Let's praise God and thank Him for how amazing Jesus is!

WORSHIP SONGS: Never Better, What a friend

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of John in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of John in the Bible. The book of John is one of the Gospels. The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), opaque cups (8), permanent marker

RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Cards \(2/campus\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the God's Big Story Cards and cut apart the pictures. Use a permanent marker to number the cups; then place each picture under its (upside down) corresponding cup.

Set the cups around the room in various places. As you tell the story, choose a child to pick up a cup at the designated time, and bring you the picture, which will help illustrate the story.

"Our story today has to do with a special drink that showed how amazing Jesus is. You can help with today's story by picking up a cup and finding a picture that will show something that has to do with our story. I'll tell you when it's time.



In the last part of our story, Jesus was in the desert. After Jesus left the desert, He went back to Galilee where He had grown up. Along the way, some people started following Jesus as His disciples. They were His students. Let's find cup #1 and pick up the picture to see what Jesus and His disciples did next. Invite a kid to find cup #1 and pick up the Picture Card #1: wedding bells. What is the picture? Allow the kids to respond. It's a wedding decoration! Jesus and His disciples went to a wedding party! It was a little different from weddings today.

At that time, wedding celebrations lasted seven days! Everyone laughed, danced, ate food, and had fun. Jesus' mom, Mary, was at this wedding too. She came up to Jesus because she had heard some bad news. Let's find cup #2 to give a clue about what happened that was bad. Choose a kid to find cup #2 and pick up Picture Card #2: an empty cup. It's an empty cup! The drink that the grownups were having at the wedding—wine—was gone! How embarrassing for the people throwing the party!

People who came to weddings usually brought gifts to help pay for the wedding. When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother wanted Jesus to give an extra special gift. She said to Him, "They have no more wine" (John 2:3). What could Jesus do about that?

Choose a kid to find cup #3 and pick up Picture Card #3: a clock. **What is the picture? A clock! Was it time for Jesus to do something amazing? Jesus' mom thought it was time. Jesus loved His mom. "Dear woman," He said, "why are you telling me about this? The time for me to show who I really am isn't here yet" (John 2:4). Jesus was just starting to do God's work. Not even His close followers could imagine what Jesus would do. They didn't realize yet that Jesus would do many amazing and unbelievable things. Jesus' mom told the servants: "Do what he tells you" (John 2:5).**

What did they do next? Let's find cup #4 to see if we can figure it out. Choose a kid to find cup #4 and pick up Picture Card #4: a jar of water. What is the picture? It's a stone jar of water. There were six stone water jars nearby. They were huge. "Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' So they filled them to the top. Then he told them, 'Now dip some out. Take it to the person in charge of the dinner' " (John 2:7-8).

The person in charge had to make sure everyone was having a good time. When he tasted the drink the servants brought him, it didn't taste like water because it wasn't water. Not anymore. What do you think it was? Let's find cup #5 to figure out what was in the jar. Choose a kid to find cup #5 and pick up Picture Card #5: a jar of wine. It wasn't water anymore! Jesus had turned the water into wine! The person in charge had no idea where the wine came from. He called the groom aside because the wine was so good. "Everyone brings out the best wine first. ... But you have saved the best until now" (John 2:10).

Let's find cup #6 now. Choose a kid to find cup #6 and pick up Picture Card #6: Jesus. Jesus had saved the day! Not everyone knew, but the servants knew. And Jesus' disciples knew and believed in Him.

Jesus saved the host from being embarrassed when Jesus turned the water into wine. This was the first time Jesus did a miracle. A miracle is something that only God's power can do. This miracle showed how amazing Jesus is and what He can do. We need to find cup #7 now. Choose a kid to find cup #7 and pick up Picture Card #7: a gift. Jesus did a miracle that was a special gift for the people at the wedding. But it was also a gift that shows us something amazing about Him today!

Although this was the first time Jesus did a miracle, it was not the last. He did many wonderful things! Just as Jesus gave the best wine, He would one day give something else: His life. Through all the incredible things Jesus did, He shows us that He is amazing. Our last cup has the Wonder Truth in it. Choose a kid to find cup #8 and pick up Picture Card #8: Jesus Shows that He Is Amazing! The cups remind us of the jars of water Jesus used to do a miracle at the wedding. And the cups and pictures remind us of how amazing Jesus still is today! He can do amazing things for us too!"

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS SHOWS THAT HE IS AMAZING**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Before He died, Jesus said that His blood is like wine—it was poured out when He died to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:28). Jesus showed how amazing He is when He died and rose again! Now the wrong things we do can be forgiven, and we can have a relationship with God forever!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for how amazing He is and for Jesus.

Dear God, thank You so much for how amazing You are and for the wonderful, amazing things You have done. Thank You for loving us and forgiving us through Jesus. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May Jesus reveal to you this week that He is amazing, and may you experience His amazing love for you!