



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.

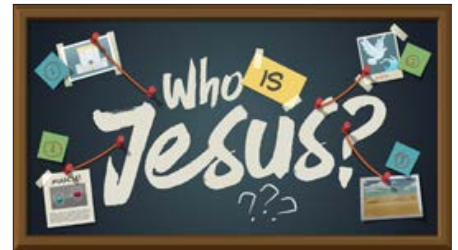
**WORD OF WONDER:** Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible. —from Colossians 1:15

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
  - Play Dough Reveal
  - Water Pouring
  - Jesus Turns Water to Wine Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Changing Water Experiment
- Word of Wonder: From Colossians 1:15
- God's Big Story/Snack
- Circle Time: Question Cups
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Watercolor Worship
- Closing Game: Pass the Water



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

**Play Stations**

**SUPPLIES:** play dough (various colors), play dough tools, small plastic gems or toys (several), pitcher of water, cups or vases (several), towel, food coloring (various colors), coloring utensils

**RESOURCES:** [Jesus Turns Water to Wine Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"**

**Play Station: Play Dough Reveal**

**Set-up:** Set out play dough and tools, along with small plastic gems or toys.

**Play:** Encourage kids to hide the gems in the play dough and then let another kid dig in the play dough (or use play dough tools) to find—or reveal—the gem. Then they can hide it again for the next kid.

**Play Station: Water Pouring**

**Set-up:** Spread a towel on the table to contain spills; then set out a pitcher of water and several cups or vases. Have various colors of food coloring available.

**Play:** Let the kids take turns pouring the water from the pitcher into the vases or cups. You can also add a few drops of food coloring to some of the cups and let the kids take turns mixing the colors to see what new colors they can make.

**Play Station: Jesus Turns Water into Wine Coloring Sheet**

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a party they've been to or a gift they have received.

## Curiosity Activity: Changing Water Experiment

**SUPPLIES:** flat bedsheets or tablecloths (at least 2), clear drinking glasses or jars (6), water, food coloring drops (red, yellow, and blue), wooden spoon

Ahead of time, cover a table with flat bedsheets or tablecloths so that they drape to the floor on the side that will face the kids. Fill three of the clear jars to the brim with water. Mix one color of food coloring into each jar: red, yellow, and blue. Set the three empty clear jars next to the three full ones, along with the wooden spoon.

**"We have a science experiment challenge to do to help us get curious about today's part of God's big story. We've got red, yellow, and blue water up here. Can anyone make some orange water?"**

**Which colors do you think would mix to make orange?** Allow the kids to answer. **Red and yellow mixed together make orange!**

Choose a kid volunteer and help her make orange water in a fresh jar by mixing some of the red water with some of the yellow water. Encourage her to just put a little water in the jar. When finished, the volunteer can have a seat.

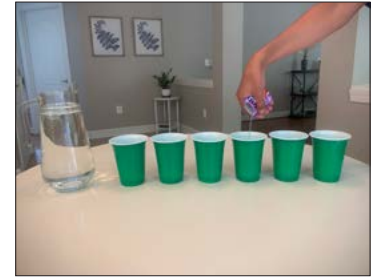
**Can anyone make some green water? How do you think we can make green?** Allow the kids to respond. **We can make green by mixing blue and yellow. How about purple?** Allow the kids to respond. **We can make purple by mixing red and blue.**

Choose two more kids to mix colors. One will make green water by mixing blue and yellow water. One will make purple water by mixing red and blue water. Thank the volunteers and invite them to return to their seats.

**Look at all these colors! We started with three, and now we have a rainbow! I wonder if anything else changed. What flavor water do you think this could be?** Hold up a jar and take answers. Ask for opinions on two other colors. **Let's test and see if we changed these jars of water into lemonade, orange juice, or juice!**

Sip from one of the jars (or ask a willing adult leader to do so), confirming that while the color has changed, the liquid is still just regular water.

**What would you do to change the liquid in these jars into something completely different? Like juice?** Allow the kids to respond. **It's impossible for us to change water into something else, unless we mix it with juice mix, of course! But it's not impossible for Jesus. We'll learn more about it in today's part of God's big story. We'll hear about a time when Jesus did something amazing with water and changed it into something different! When He did this, Jesus showed how amazing He is!"**



## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors (prep only), small shatterproof mirror, paper, writing utensil

**RESOURCES:** [Word of Wonder Cards \(1/SG\)](#)

### WORD OF WONDER

**Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible.**

—from Colossians 1:15



Ahead of time, print the Word of Wonder Cards and cut apart the cards. Set out a small shatterproof mirror.

**"Our Word of Wonder says that Jesus is the exact image of God. When people see Jesus, they see God! Mirrors reflect an image. But they do something else interesting too.** Use the writing utensil to draw an arrow on a sheet of paper and show it to the kids. **Which direction is the arrow pointing?**

Encourage the kids to point in the same direction as the arrow. Then hold the mirror on either the left or right side of the arrow (not directly behind it) and let the kids look at the arrow reflection in the mirror. **It's pointing the other direction! Did the mirror change the image? Yes! It wasn't the exact image anymore. Jesus is different from the mirror because Jesus is the exact image of God! We're going to say our verse together, then use mirrors to help us remember it.**

**Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you. Repeat this several times.**

- **JESUS IS**—Open arms out to sides, one at a time.
- **THE IMAGE OF GOD,**—Point up.
- **WHO IS INVISIBLE.**—Cover eyes.
- **FROM COLOSSIANS 1:15**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

**Now we're going to take turns choosing a card and holding the mirror next to the picture of a Bible. If the picture you see in the mirror is backward, it's the next person's turn. If the picture you see is correct in the mirror, then you will get to say the verse!"**

If you have more than one mirror, you can let several kids do the activity at the same time. If you have only one mirror, you can let the kids take turns choosing a card and holding the mirror next to it. If the picture in the mirror is correct, encourage the kids to say the verse.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What is something invisible that you know is real?** (Offer examples such as wind, gravity, air.)
- **What do we learn about God from stories about Jesus in the Bible?**

## God's Big Story / Snack

**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, then 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."**

**Read John 2:1–12 from an NIV Bible.**

## Circle Time: Question Cups

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), blue paper, purple paper, opaque cups (14)

Ahead of time, cut seven small squares from the purple paper and seven small squares from the blue paper. Set out 14 cups upside down on the floor and put a square under each cup. Place the squares under the cups in a random order.

**"In our story today, we learned about how Jesus showed He is amazing when He turned water into wine. This was a great gift for the people at the wedding. But it was even more special because it showed that Jesus can do anything! We're going to use cups to help us answer questions about the story. You're going to choose a cup to pick up. If it has a blue square under it (which is like water), you'll sit back down. If the cup has a purple square (which is like the wine from today's story), you'll get to answer a question.**

Let the kids take turns turning over a cup. If the cup has a purple square under it, ask a question from the list below. Once a cup has been turned over, pick it up so it doesn't get turned over again.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What was Jesus celebrating in this story?** (*a wedding*)
- **What happened at the wedding that was bad news for the people there?** (*The wine ran out.*)
- **What did Jesus do about the wine running out?** (*turned the water into wine*)
- **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?**
- **What amazing thing has Jesus done in your life?**
- **What do you think it would be like to be at a party with Jesus? What would you want to do?**

**Turning water to wine was the first of Jesus' miracles that the Bible tells us about. Only God can do miracles. This miracle shows us that Jesus is amazing and that He is God! Let's take some time to thank Jesus for the amazing things He does and for who He is!"**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for how amazing He is and for the amazing things He does.

## Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

## Responding in Worship: Watercolor Worship

**SUPPLIES:** thick paper (1 sheet per kid), watercolor sets, paintbrushes (1 per kid), cups of water (1 per every 2–3 kids), wet wipes or paper towels (1 per kid), Bible (NirV)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Set out a few watercolor paint sets and cups of clean water for kids to clean their brushes. Give each kid a paintbrush and a thick sheet of paper. Also set out wet wipes or paper towels to clean up messes.

**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. Although Jesus isn't here with us in the same way He was when He lived and walked on earth, He is still with us through the Holy Spirit. And we see God's amazingness all around us all the time! We can see His amazingness revealed in creation and in our family and friends.**

**We worship a wonderful God, and He does wonderful things each and every day. We read in the Bible about the amazing things He has done. In today's story, Jesus' amazing miracle involved water. Let's use water and paint to worship God and create pictures that remind us of how amazing He is. As you paint, listen to words from the Bible that remind us of how amazing God is.**

Allow the kids to paint pictures with the watercolor paints. While they are painting, read Colossians 1:15–19 from the NirV and then play music from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#).

After a few minutes, invite some volunteers to share what they painted. **Our God is incredible, and Jesus has revealed to us in so many ways that He is amazing!**



## Closing Game: Pass the Water

**SUPPLIES:** disposable cups (1 per kid, plus 1), blue pom-poms (handful)

**"In our story today, Jesus did something amazing with water! It was a miracle. He changed water into wine! Before He did the miracle, Jesus asked the servants to fill six jars with water. We're going to play a game where we will work together to fill a cup with pretend water.**

Give each kid a disposable cup. Have the kids form a line and set one empty cup at the end of the line. Put a handful of blue pom-poms at the front of the line and have the kids pass the blue pom-poms ("water") down the line using only their cups to "dump" the blue pom-poms one at a time from cup to cup, until they all get to the end. The last person in the line will dump the blue pom-poms into the empty cup. Continue until the empty cup is almost full of blue pom-poms. To make it more challenging, gather more pom-poms and set out six empty cups, like the jars from the story that were filled with water.

**We filled the cup! It reminds us of our story today and how amazing Jesus is!"**