#### Lesson 5:-

#### The Wedding at Cana

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

John 2

MEMORY WORK:

Bible Skills 1-6

John 3:16

The 12 Apostles

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I believe Jesus was God’s Son because of the miraculous signs He performed.

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|  **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus grew up just like we do. He did things like play, help around the house, and obey His parents. Then He became a grown man, but most people did not know He was the Son of God. He was waiting for the right time to let them know

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Not long after Jesus met some of His first disciples (Peter, Andrew, Philip, and Nathanael), they were all invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. [Cana was only a few miles from Nazareth.] Jesus’ mother (and possibly His brothers [2:12]) was also a guest at this wedding.
2. In New Testament times, there was no formal wedding ceremony like we have today. On the chosen day, the bridegroom and many friends, along with musicians and singers, walked to the bride’s house together. Then, after receiving a blessing from the bride’s parents, the entire group would return to the bridegroom’s house. Then the bride and bridegroom went into his house together, and they were considered married. There was a great feast at the bridegroom’s house, lasting one to two weeks.
3. Weddings were happy occasions; times of celebration. Jesus being at this wedding lets us know that Jesus enjoyed being with people during good times, sharing their joys. He was surrounded by much suffering and unhappiness throughout His ministry, but this was one time when He could share people’s joys.
4. It was important to the bridegroom’s family that everyone had enough to eat and drink throughout the celebration. But when they ran out of juice too soon, Mary wanted to help. She had never seen Jesus perform a **sign**, but she believed He could help. When Jesus said, “What do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come?” He was making it clear that He was to be under His Heavenly Father’s direction on such things as miracles.
5. His mother, Mary, told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them. Then Jesus told them to fill six large stone **water pots** with water. The servants followed His instructions. He directed them to take a sample of the liquid to the man in charge of the feast. The master of the feast was very surprised that what he was drinking was such good quality juice, which was usually served at the beginning of the feast.

The word “**sign**” means a supernatural act; an extraordinary event that demands a supernatural explanation. A sign or miracle is not an event which could occur naturally. It had a SUPERnatural explanation.

**NOTE ON PURPOSE OF WATER POTS:** The Old Law contained guidelines about purifying oneself after coming in contact with anything “unclean.” The large water pots at the wedding were for ceremonial washings. In their efforts to be physically clean, the Jews carried these instructions to extremes, even adding their own traditions.

1. Only a handful of people knew what had happened. Large crowds did not witness Jesus’ first miraculous sign, but those that saw it believed in Him. This was always the **purpose of miracles**: to prove that the words spoken were divine truth and, in Jesus’ case, to prove that He was God’s Son.

**NOTE:** Signs were done in order to confirm the Word of God and Jesus as the Son of God

(Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:20; John 5:36)

1. Jesus, as the Son of God, is “omnipotent,” which means He is all-powerful. He is powerful enough to do anything that can logically be done. He was involved in Creation (John 1:1-5), and He is in control of all created things. He was the Great Cause behind all the effects (results) in Nature.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The Greek word *oinos*, transliterated “wine” in English, was used in the first century to refer both to intoxicating (i.e., wine) and non-intoxicating (i.e., grape juice) drinks. Context must be considered to determine which drink is being referenced. There is nothing in John two to warrant the interpretation that this “wine” was intoxicating. [Consider: if Jesus served alcohol as some suggest, and “well drunk” (vs. 10) refers to the guests already being drunk or nearly drunk (as is also suggested by some), then Jesus’ action of creating yet more intoxicating drink would be an endorsement of drunkenness, in contradiction to passages on drunkenness and sobriety. He would have also been assisting the guests to sin by becoming even more drunk, rather than discouraging drunkenness. This would have made Jesus a sinner. Clearly, the “wine” that Jesus made was simply grape juice, and the “well drunk” reference is speaking of the fact that one’s tastes become more dull over time as he eats or drinks the same thing.] Furthermore, for most Jewish people, wine was diluted by as much as two-thirds with water. This diluted “fruit of the vine” was used as disinfectant and medicine. It was often the only drink available because of poor water supplies. This miracle does not give us justification to drink the liquid we call “wine” today, which has a different meaning, especially due to its highly intoxicating potential. There are many more warnings in the New Testament about the abuse of “strong drink.”

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* A Beka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file.
* See AP’s pinterest page for ideas. [www.pinterest.com/apcurriculum](http://www.pinterest.com/apcurriculum)
* Tales of Glory Apostle Figure Set

##### Props for acting out story- Bible costumes,nets, fish

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Decorate a jar (or the outline of a jar on a piece of paper) using confetti from a wedding or little pieces of brightly colored paper.
* Pour the children a small amount of water in a cup to taste and then grape juice to taste. Which do you prefer? Why?

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Discuss what “signs” were (supernatural acts; extraordinary events that demand supernatural explanations) and what they were used for (Signs were done in order to confirm the Word of God and Jesus as the Son of God—Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:20; John 5:36). Miracles happened for a purpose and during a time. They no longer happen today (The apostles were the only ones with the power to pass on the ability to do miracles—Acts 8:18. See also Zechariah 12:10; 13:1-2; Acts 2), nor are they needed since we have all of God’s Word (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:8-12; 2 Peter 1:3).

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Let children role play the story.
* Have dress up clothes with small veils, white sheets, etc.

### Review Questions

### Where was the wedding?

### Cana

### Who did Jesus talk to there?

### His mother

### What is a miracle?

### a supernatural act/can only be done through God’s power

### What is so famous about this story?

### the first miracle of Jesus

### Who asked Jesus to get more wine?

### His mother)

### Why were miracles done?

### to confirm the Word of God

### What is a wedding?

### a formal ceremony of a male and female to marry

### Did Jesus obey His mother when she asked Him to make some wine?

### Yes

### What does the word “omnipotent” mean?

### all-powerful

### Who else was with Jesus at the wedding?

### His disciples

### How many water pots did Jesus fill?

### six, John 2:6

### What were the water pots made of?

### stone

### Who did the master of the feast talk to when he tasted the wine?

### the groom

### Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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