

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 8
The Miracle at Cana— Water Turned to Wine (John 2:1-11)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord performed miracles for "two reasons: to strengthen and confirm the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and for the sake of the Word.
- B. Each miracle is really a parable teaching us of some good work which the Lord can perform in our souls if we believe In Him and ask His help.
- C. All of us who want the Lord to come into our lives have "six water pots of stone" knowledge of the general precepts of the Word waiting to be filled with meaning by study and meditation. It was in the drawing out that the water was turned to wine— the best wine. When we use knowledge of the truth in meeting our dally problems, the knowledge is transformed in our minds and becomes truth for our souls.
- D. Basic correspondences: water pots = doctrine in the mind

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Last time we learned about the Lord's calling His first four disciples to follow Him. Do you remember their names? (Peter, Andrew, James, and John)
 - 2. And do you remember what a disciple is? (A learner) The Lord's disciples followed Him, listening to Him and watching what He did.
 - 3. Sometimes they watched Him do miracles. Do you know what a miracle is? (A wonderful thing that the Lord does to teach us a spiritual lesson.)
 - 4. Can you think of some miracles you know of that the Lord has done? (Parting the Red Sea; parting the Jordan; manna in the wilderness; water out of a rock; healing Naaman's leprosy; etc.)
 - 5. In today's story, the Lord is going to perform a miracle.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. Read aloud John 2:1-11.
- C. Ideas To Discuss
 - 1. Where did the wedding take place? (Cana)
 - 2. Who were invited? (Jesus and His disciples)

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3. What did Jesus' mother tell Him at the wedding? (That they had run out of wine)
4. How many stone water pots were set out? (6)
5. These water pots were HUGE! Each one held 20 or 30 gallons - 20 or 30 of these! [Show gallon milk jug filled with water.]
6. What did Jesus tell the servants to do to them? (Fill them with water)
7. Jesus told the servants, "Draw some out now, and take it to..." To whom? (The master of the feast)
8. Did the master of the feast know where the wine had come from? (No)
9. What did the master of the feast tell the bridegroom (the man whose wedding it was)? (Other people set out the best wine first, and when it's gone, they set out what's not as good; but you have kept the good wine till last.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Are Jesus and the Lord the same Person? (Yes!) Since the Lord made everything and has control over everything, of course He can turn water into wine. No ordinary person could do that!
2. We'll be learning later about more miracles that Jesus performed while He was on earth. Why do you suppose He performed miracles for people to see? There were simple good people who wanted the truth that He taught and who believed that Jesus was the Lord. But when they heard their wicked religious leaders say that Jesus wasn't really the promised Savior, they became confused about whom to believe. The miracles helped them to believe that Jesus really was the Lord.
3. Today we don't need to see miracles right in front of our eyes because we can see with our minds that Jesus is the Lord. We can see with our minds that He heals our sicknesses and helps us in times of trouble.

III. Enrichment Activities (Do as many as time permits)

A. Music

1. "God made them all," FIRST SONGS, p. 24. (Remind children that Jesus was God on earth; He made everything.)
2. "Jesus, our Savior, King of creation," HYMNAL #122.

B. Activities: TURN WATER INTO WINE

1. Before Class
 - a. Get an empty glass pitcher, any opaque pitcher (but preferably stoneware or ceramic to enact the story more vividly), and a plastic gallon milk jug filled with water.

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- b. Put some red food coloring into opaque pitcher. (Try this out before Sunday to discover an appropriate number of drops.)

2. In Class

- a. After Ideas to Discuss, above, demonstrate the miracle:
- b. Without telling the children of the red food coloring at the bottom of the opaque pitcher, show how the servants filled the stone water pots (opaque pitcher) with water (from your plastic gallon jug). Then "draw out" from the "water pot" into the empty glass pitcher, and voila! (Of course, be sure to explain after the activity that you have not really done a miracle!)

C. Project: TURNING WATER INTO WINE

1. Materials Needed

- a. Scissors
- b. Glue
- c. Red & blue crayons (or oil pastels)
- d. 1 photocopied (or traced) water pot and strip per child
- e. 1 text strip per child

2. Before Class

- a. Photocopy project page onto stiff paper, if possible. (Plain white copy paper will do but is a little too floppy for easy handling. An alternative: Make templates and trace the water pots and strips onto stiff paper.)
- b. Slit along cutting lines on water pots with a utility knife.

3. In Class

- a. Each child colors the strip according to Instructions and then cuts it out.
- b. Cut out text slip and glue to neck of water pot.
- c. Thread the strip through the two slits in the water pot; then demonstrate how the contents of the pot can change from water (blue) to wine (red).

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of the story
- B. 1 gallon plastic milk jug filled with water
- C. Empty glass pitcher, empty opaque pitcher (preferably ceramic or stoneware), and red food coloring for Activities, above

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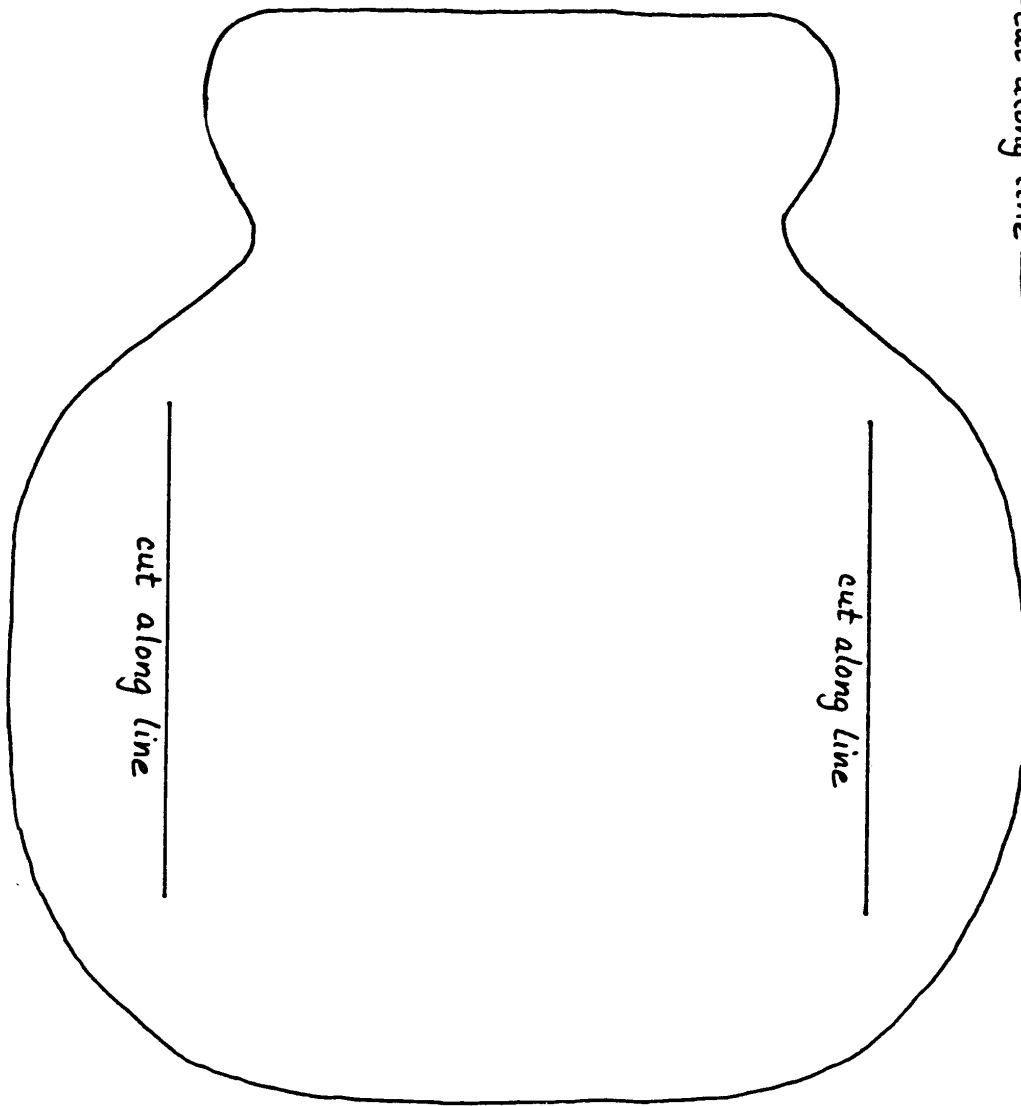
V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 6, "Miracle at Cana" (John 2:1-11), pp. 16-32, esp. junior level.

Text slip:

[T]he master of the
feast... tasted the water
that was made wine,
and did not know
where it came from....
John 2:9

Cut out text slip, and glue to
neck of stone water pot



cut along line

↑ COLOR RED ↑
↓ COLOR BLUE ↓