



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

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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).



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Water Pouring

SUPPLIES: plastic bin with water, various sizes of cups (3–4), plastic pitcher, towel, food coloring (optional)

Put a towel down to contain spills and set out a plastic bin with water and various sizes of cups.

Let the kids take turns using a plastic pitcher to pour the water from the bin into the 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.

In our story today, we'll hear about a time when people's cups were empty, and Jesus did something amazing with water! We'll hear about it in our story today. The story helps us know that Jesus shows how amazing He is. Let's say our Wonder Truth together.

Invite the kids to say the Wonder Truth and do the motions with you.

JESUS—*Point up.*

SHOWS THAT HE—*Bring your arms up and out to your sides in a "burst" motion.*

IS AMAZING—*Clap your hands.*



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LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **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.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 314-317
Jesus' First Miracle

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

The Son is the exact likeness of God.

— Colossians 1:15