



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

Object Lesson: Cup Reveal

SUPPLIES: opaque cups (3–4); small toys such as cars, toy people figures, etc.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Set out opaque cups, along with small toys like cars and toy people figures. Be sure the toys are large enough to not be choking hazards, but small enough to fit inside the cups.

Welcome! I am so glad you are here today. I have some toys that we can cover and then make reappear. Would you like to come look at them? Show the kids the cups and toys.

All these pieces help us tell a special story about when Jesus did something amazing. You can pick up these pieces to look at and play with them.

Encourage kids to hide the toys under the cups and then pull the cups off to show—or reveal—the toys. Then they can hide it again for the next kid.

Today we're going to hear that Jesus shows us He is amazing, and these cups remind us of that story!



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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