



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
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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).



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: play dough (various colors), play dough tools, small plastic gems or toys (several), coloring utensils

Wonder Ink 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: 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.



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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, who can't be seen.

—from Colossians 1:15

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?**

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!



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LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: Transforming Water Relay

SUPPLIES: medium or large clear container, blue paper (at least 15 sheets), purple paper (at least 15 sheets)

Set a medium or large clear container on one side of the room. Crumple the blue sheets of paper and use them to fill the container. If you use a larger container, you may need more than 15 sheets. Then crumple the purple sheets of paper and set them on the opposite side of the room. Have the kids line up next to the purple paper wads.

What amazing thing did Jesus do in our story today? Allow the kids to respond. **That's right! He turned water into wine! This special gift not only helped the people at the wedding but showed us something very important about Jesus: He is amazing!**

To help us remember the story and how amazing Jesus is, we're going to take turns running down to the container with blue paper (which is like water). When you get to it, you'll take out one blue paper wad and run back to the group and tag the next person, who will do the same thing. When we get all the "water" out of the container, we'll go again and take the purple paper wads one at a time to fill the container.

To make it a competition, set out two containers and sets of paper wads, and let the kids race to see which team can empty the blue paper wads and fill the container with purple paper wads first.