

MIRACLES

Lesson 1: Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

This includes:

1. Leader Preparation
2. Lesson Guide

1. LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW

Jesus didn't choose to perform miracles that were big and showy and done in front of thousands of people. His miracles were not only for groups of people, but also for individuals who were bold in their faith, obedient to his commands, and willing to ask. Jesus loves us, and he loves when we communicate with him and ask for his help.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. WHAT: God is compassionate and merciful regardless of how small our requests may seem.
2. WHY: We can go to God with anything, and he desires to hear from us often.
3. HOW: Students will discuss how God is available 24/7 and that no request is too little for him to respond.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

John 2:1-11

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES

Psalms 34:17-18

TEACHING PREP

The short overview below is designed to help you prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your teenagers, you'll definitely want to refer to it as you lead.

Read John 2:1-11.

Jewish weddings included astonishing feasts for their guests, along with thick layers of ritual and tradition. In this wedding, however, there was a mishap in the middle of the feast—the wine supply had gone dry. The outcome for such an error would include, at the very least, humiliation for the bride and groom.



**LEADER
TIP**



When Mary, mother of Jesus, became aware of the problem, she immediately called on Jesus.

Jesus asked the servants to fill the ceremonial cleansing jugs with water. The miracle was not only in the fact that Jesus turned the water into wine, but that the jugs and the water were used for cleaning the hands and cups of the wedding guests. As it turns out, the tainted water not only made excellent wine, but the master commented on how extraordinary the wine tasted. What a miracle!

God's miracles are available to everyone. In fact, students will learn that God is available 24/7 and that no request is too little for him to respond.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

Text Message Questions

We've provided a couple of different text message questions to send out to your students prior to your meeting. Feel free to use one or both of the questions below. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry

- What was the first miracle that Jesus ever performed? Find out tonight when the group meets.
- What miracle do you need in your life right now? Share your answer tonight.

Parent Email

We've provided you with an email below that you can send to your parents following the lesson. Our hope is to encourage parents to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.

Dear parents,

We've launched a new three-lesson study on the miracles of Jesus. These are great demonstrations of God's power and faithfulness through Jesus.



The first lesson described the first miracle of Jesus found in John 2. This event reminded us that God cares about the little things in life, in addition to the big things.

Throughout the week, as you get the opportunity, ask your teenager the following questions:

- When do you find yourself not praying about certain things because you think they're too insignificant for Jesus to care?
- What are some crazy things that you have seen God do that you would consider a miracle?
- How has your faith in Jesus been strengthened by reading in the Bible about miracles he performed—or by ways he has done miraculous things in your own life?

Have a wonderful week!



MIRACLES

Lesson 1:
Jesus Turns Water
Into Wine

2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then ASK:

- *Talk to us about something that if it happened to you this week, you would consider it a “miracle.” Maybe it’s getting 100 percent on science test, your parents letting you borrow the car this weekend, or that one particular person saying “hi” between classes.*
- *Why do we use the word miracle to describe these kinds of events, even though they aren’t truly supernatural?*
- *What’s the most truly miraculous thing you’ve ever witnessed or experienced? What made it so miraculous?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *True miracles aren’t everyday occurrences. They are supernatural moments when God does something that can’t happen through human ability. When you read through the Gospels—the first four books of the New Testament—you see all kinds of miracles, and you probably know about some of them already. But today we’re going to look at one of the more unusual miracles, one that helps us see how Jesus cares about the little things in our lives.*

TEACHING POINTS

The goal of the Teaching Points is to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. The main points we have chosen are (1) Jesus cares about the little things, (2) Communicating with Jesus is simple and necessary, and (3) Miracles point the way to Jesus.

Remember: All throughout these lessons, it’s up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use, and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.



LEADER
TIP



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TIP



Read John 2:1-11 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so everyone has a chance to read.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *That was a pretty cool miracle. Let's jump into this Scripture and see what we can learn from this miraculous moment.*

1. Jesus cares about the little things

ASK:

- *When do you find yourself not praying about certain things because you think they're too insignificant for Jesus to care?*
- *Why did Jesus perform miracles?*
- *How would you rate this miracle compared with other miracles that Jesus performed, such as healing sick people, raising people from the dead, and feeding huge crowds from just a basketful of food? Was it a big miracle that made a big difference or a little miracle that made a little difference? Explain.*
- *Why do you think that Jesus believed he needed to turn water into wine? Why not just let the wedding guests drink dirty water? After all, it wasn't like the guests were complaining and Jesus jump in and fix things.*
- *If Jesus was willing to perform his first miracle for something that had seemingly little impact in the big picture of life, what does that tell you about the importance of prayer throughout the day for seemingly ordinary needs?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus cares about the big things like healing a sick relative, but he also cares about the little things like helping you find a lost item in your bedroom. He is not some "Supreme Spirit" who only selectively hears and responds to our prayers. Jesus loves to hear us when we talk to him. He loves to provide for us and help us through life's situations—both silly and serious.*

2. Communicating with Jesus is simple and necessary

ASK:

- *Communication is a natural action that we do all the time. What are some specific ways that you communicate with other people?*



- *If you suddenly stopped communication with your parents or your closest friends, what might happen?*
- *How is communicating with Jesus similar to communicating with a friend or a parent or a classmate? How is it different?*
- *How do we sometimes overcomplicate the idea of communicating with Jesus?*
- *Do you think Jesus ever gets annoyed by your prayers? Why or why not?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *If you stopped talking to your parents or your closest friends, you would feel disconnected—and the same is true with Jesus. Your relationship with him gets better when you communicate. You can use the same techniques for communicating with Jesus that you use with friends and family: talking, writing him a letter, singing songs. Jesus loves when you ask for his help and when you take time to thank him for helping you.*

3. Miracles point the way to Jesus

ASK:

- *Look at verse 11. Jesus' disciples experienced greater belief in him because they witnessed this miracle. How and why do miracles point people toward Jesus?*
- *How has your faith in Jesus been strengthened by reading in the Bible about miracles he performed—or by ways he has done miraculous things in your own life?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *When God does the miraculous and when God answers prayers, it's an opportunity for us to give God thanks and praise. When we talk about our experiences with other people, we can tell them how God met our needs and how God miraculously intervened. We can point people toward Jesus as the one who did it all.*

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three for these questions.

ASK:

- *Read Psalm 34:17-18. When has God rescued you from troubles and problems?*





PAIR SHARE

- *When have you experienced God's comfort during difficult times or after your spirits were crushed?*
- *How does this passage connect to our conversation today about Jesus' miracles?*

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

APPLICATION

ASK:

- *What are some ways that you can start communicating with Jesus more consistently?*
- *Think about a recent miracle or answered prayer. How can you give God glory in a way that points other people to God?*
- *What big miracle do you need in your life right now? What small miracles do you need?*
- *What are some specific things that you learned from reading about the first miracle of Jesus? Let's commit to communicating with Jesus more since he cares about the little and the big things.*

SUMMARY



LEADER TIP

End your lesson here. Provide your teenagers with a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) the content of this lesson, (2) the dialogue that took place during the lesson, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]



LEADER TIP

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the verse below.

The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles (Psalm 34:17).

