

# SABBATH SCHOOL

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Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 1 • Unit 5 • Week 2

## JESUS CHRIST—THE WEDDING AT CANA

### OBJECTIVE:

To learn about the first recorded miracle that Jesus performed and how He wants to help us enjoy life.

### ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: How many of you like to have fun?

Ask: Do these people look like they are having fun?

Do: Show pictures of weddings. You may want to use actual pictures of people the children know or of a recent wedding that has taken place in the congregation, or simply some pictures from a magazine.

Ask: How many of you have ever been to a wedding?

Ask: Do people have fun at weddings? What are some things people do for fun after the church part of a wedding? [This will differ according to customs in your area. Some have small receptions where the couple opens their gifts. Punch and cake may be served. Others may have elaborate dinners followed by dancing.]

Say: Did you know that Jesus liked to have fun, too? He also liked good food and things to drink. He enjoyed life and liked to see others be happy and enjoy life.

### BIBLE LESSON:

Read the story of the wedding at Cana from *Bedtime Bible Story Book* by Jesse Lyman Hurlbut (©1989, Barbour and Company, Inc.) or another Bible story book. Or read it from the Bible in John 2:1-11.

- Note: Be sure to stress that the wine was for a special occasion, and was not used improperly by drinking too much of it.
- Ask: Why did Jesus' mother tell Him there was no more wine? What did she want him to do?  
[Possible answers: She wanted Him to help; she had faith in Him that he would do something to help.]
- Ask: Do you think Jesus wanted to make His mother and the other people happy by helping them enjoy the wedding celebration?
- Say: Yes, we know that Jesus obeyed His heavenly Father and His earthly father. He also wanted to please His mother and serve others (Matthew 20:28; John 10:10).
- Ask: Did Jesus ever do this before?
- Say: This was the first time that Jesus performed a miracle that we have record of.
- Ask: If someone runs out of something to drink or eat today, what do they do?  
[Answer: Go to the store.]
- Say: In Jesus' time they did not have grocery stores as we do today. Many had to grow or make their own food. You could not go and buy more wine at just any time.
- Ask: Do you know what Jesus did to help out?  
[Answer: He made the water into wine.]
- Ask: How do you think He did that?  
[Answer: It was a miracle. The children may answer "magic." Be sure to explain that magic can use a trick to make people think that they changed something. You may or may not want to elaborate on how magicians deceive people into believing they have done something, like Satan deceives people.]
- Say: Jesus did not do magic. He did a miracle. This was His first recorded miracle. When He did this miracle, people began to realize that He was special. A miracle is something that happens that can't be explained. Not only did Jesus change water into wine, but also the new wine that Jesus made was better than all of the other wine they served before!

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

- Materials: Wedding accessories: Veil, flowers, bow tie, ring, wedding music, wedding pictures, tape or CD of the wedding song (if possible);  
Small drinking cups  
Three pitchers

Prepare: Fill one pitcher with water; one pitcher with watered-down, presweetened Kool-Aid or grape juice and one pitcher with full-strength Kool-Aid or grape juice.

Say: Let's pretend that we are at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. Galilee is the area where Jesus grew up.

Do: Choose a child to be the bride and one to be the groom. Choose a wedding party (if there are enough children), and wedding guests. Choose someone to be Mary and Jesus.

Do: Conduct a short mock wedding. Play the wedding song or hum it, letting the children hum along.

Do: Pass out glasses of watered-down Kool-Aid or grape juice. Pretend to run out.

Mary: [to Jesus] Our dear friends have run out of wine. Will you help?

Jesus: Fill these water jars with water. [Then have Jesus go to the pitchers and pray.]

Do: If possible go behind a curtain or a divider. Bring out the pitcher with the full-strength Kool-Aid or grape juice and serve it.

Everyone: This juice is even better than the first! Hooray!

Ask: What was different about our version of the story and what really happened at the wedding Jesus attended?  
[Possible answers: They had wine, not Kool-Aid or grape juice. He turned the water into wine without tricks or without adding anything!]

Say: A miracle is the difference between our skit and what Jesus did. Not only did Jesus change the water, but He can change our lives too.

### **MUSIC:**

Say: At many weddings in Jesus' day and at some weddings today, the people dance and have fun together. Let's pretend we are at the wedding at Cana, and that we are all happy because our friend Jesus came to the wedding and performed a miracle. Let's dance and sing, too.

Do: Sing the following words to the melody of "Here Comes the Bride." While singing, hold hands and skip around in a circle. Change directions and sing the song again.

Jesus has come.  
We'll all have some fun.  
He wants to help us.

Let's dance everyone!  
Help from God's Son,  
He is the one.  
He gave a miracle  
and helps everyone.

Alternate Music: "It's a Miracle" from *Group's Singable Songs for Children's Ministry Volume 2*, 1995, Group Publishing, Inc.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

John 10:10 "Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Do: Prior to class print the memory verse on the chalkboard and underline each word. Have all the students say the scripture out loud several times together and individually. Then erase the last word and leave the underline. Repeat the scripture together filling in the blank. Continue this process until there are no words left on the chalkboard and see how many students are able to recite the entire verse.

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

To learn about the first recorded miracle that Jesus performed and how He wants to help us enjoy life.

## **ASK ME...**

What kind of party did Jesus and His disciples go to?

What happened to the wine?

What did Jesus do to it?

What kind of wine did Jesus make?

Can Jesus change our lives that way too?

What is a miracle?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Have a family discussion about the miracles that God has performed for your family.

Have your child draw a picture of Jesus' mother and friends who were disappointed because the wine was gone. (You may suggest some sad people looking at empty jugs.)

Next, have your child draw a picture of how happy the people were after the miracle that Jesus performed.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the backside. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

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—cut along dotted line—

(Memory verse on reverse)

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)