

9. Jesus Turns Water into Wine



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## 9

# Jesus Turns Water into Wine

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "Jesus Turns Water into Wine" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

*Close with this prayer, having your group repeat each sentence after you:*

**Dear Jesus, we are amazed at your power.  
You are God's Son.  
We praise you for your power and glory.  
Amen.**

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

*Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #93\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

*\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).*

## Easy Extra

*Add a fun element to your storytelling by "changing water into wine" as you tell of Jesus' miracle. You'll need two see-through pitchers. Before the session begins, pour a packet of red fruit drink mix into **one** pitcher and fill the **other** pitcher with water. Keep them nearby.*

*When you get to the part in the story where the servant poured water into a wine glass, **pour the water into the pitcher that contains the drink mix**. If you're meeting in person, be sure to bring cups so everyone can taste the "wine." Remind them that it's pretend wine, not real!*

## Story: Jesus Turns Water into Wine [John 2:1-11](#)

Listen to how this part of God's story begins. I'm reading from the book of John, chapter 2. *(Open your Bible and read [John 2:1-2](#).)*

**Have you ever been to a wedding?** *(Pause for responses.)* **What happens after the ceremony when it's time to eat?** *(Pause for responses.)*

No doubt the people at this wedding were having a good time—there was lots of laughing, telling stories, and remembering fun times with the bride and groom. We know that the people were eating and drinking, because Mary walked over to Jesus and said, "The wine is gone!" She seemed upset.

In those days there weren't any big stores that stayed open all night. So there was a problem all right—a *big* problem. How embarrassing it would be for the bride and groom to run out of wine! That's why Mary came to Jesus with the message.

**I wonder what Mary thought Jesus could do about it.** *(Pause for responses.)*

Jesus listened. Then he said something unusual to Mary. "Why are you asking me? It's not time for me yet."

**What do you think Jesus meant by that?** *(Pause for responses.)* **Did it sound to you like Jesus was going to do something about the shortage of wine?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Mary knew Jesus and his power. She knew that Jesus is the Son of God. So she went over to the servants and said, “Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.”

Over by the door there were six large water jugs. Each water jug was about the size of a big garbage container with a lid—the kind that people set out at the curb each week.

Jesus got up and walked over to the servants and spoke to them. “Fill these jars with water. Fill them all the way to the top.” So the servants did exactly what Jesus told them to do.

**I wonder what the servants thought as they were filling the big jars with water.** *(Pause for responses.)*

When Jesus saw that they had done what he said to do, he went over to the servants again and said, “Now pour some out and take it to the man in charge and let him taste it.”

**I wonder what the servants were thinking now. I wonder what they might have whispered to each other.** *(Pause for responses.)*

One of the servants took out a big water dipper and dipped out some water. He began to pour it into a wine glass—but wait! *(Bring your voice to a whisper.)* It wasn’t clear water. It didn’t seem to be water at all. It was red—and it tasted exactly like *wine*.

Quickly the servants ran to the man in charge of the wedding and offered him the glass. He tasted it. It was fantastic! The best! Much better than the wine they had served first! He had no idea where it had come from. But the servants knew. The disciples knew.

The man was so impressed with the new wine that he went over to the bridegroom and called him aside. He said, “Most people serve their very best wine first. But you saved the very best for last! It’s amazing!”

Let’s see how the Bible ends this part of God’s great story. *(Read [John 2:11](#).)*

This miracle

- was the first miracle Jesus did.
- showed Jesus’ glory and power.
- led the disciples to believe in him.

Jesus did miracles because he loved to help people and show them that he really was God’s Son. Only God’s Son could do such miracles!

## Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Kindergarten-1st Grade: People at a Party Learn about Jesus](#)
  - [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Turns Water into Wine](#)
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