

# STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



## Week Twenty Three - Water & Wine

### **A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*Jesus' first recorded miracle in front of others was turning water into wine at a wedding celebration. This seems like a strange choice at first in our understanding, but Jesus was using the history and culture of his people to tell an amazing story of life and redemption! Help the kids hear a story of Jesus providing when there was need - and pray they see his glory!*

- **Big Idea:** Jesus shows his glory by providing what only God can

### **Starter**

- **Evidences of Grace**

*Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*

- **Ask**

*Have you ever been to a wedding? What was your favorite part? In Jewish weddings wine used to be an important part. Not because they drank too much, but because wine reminded them how God provided for them by causing the vine to grow. Today's story will talk about wine at a wedding.*

### **Sing Together**

### Story - from John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, *"They're just about out of wine."*

Jesus said, *"Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time yet."*

His mother went on anyway, telling the servants, *"Do whatever he tells you."*

Six stone water pots were there, used by the Jews for ceremonial washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim.

*"Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host,"* Jesus said, and they did. When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, *"Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!"*

This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Even though Jesus said it wasn't his time, he still honored his mother like a good son would. He saw a need at the wedding and he met it. He didn't just provide some wine, but 120-180 gallons! It wasn't just wine, but the best wine they had ever tasted!

This happened on the third day, which may have reminded God's people of how after God separated the waters He made vegetation grow on the third day of creation, including the vine where wine comes from. Or how He met the Israelites at Mount Sinai on the third day of their ceremonial washing and they said, like Jesus' mother told the servants, *"We will do whatever the Lord tells us!"* It may have made them think about the third cup of wine they drank every year at the Passover meal, where they said *"Blessed are You O Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine"*.

Jesus had just literally created the fruit of the vine in that wine he made! Jesus showed his glory that he was God himself, come down.

Later, when he was ready to go to his death at the cross, he prayed this: *"Father, now my time has come. Glorify your Son so that I may glorify you."* Then after he died, on the third day, he performed the best miracle. He rose to new life conquering death and sin!

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- Why do you think Jesus' mom asked him to help when the wedding ran out of wine? Why do you think she thought he could help?
- How do you think Jesus was able to transform the water into wine?
- Why did Jesus do this miracle even when he said it wasn't his time yet?
- What are some things you are hoping Jesus will help you with?

### **Breakout Time**

- **Prayer:**

Blessed are You O Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine - and all things!

- **Craft:**

- Use the sheet attached to color and cut out the two circles. Then use a fastener to attach one to the other so that when it spins, it changes from water to wine.

- **BLESS Activity:** *\*For kids to do during the week\**

*Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.*

This week, focus on the **Bless** rhythm. The people at the wedding needed something and Jesus provided it. Who do you know that has a need you can help with this week?

