

Sunday School Lesson 8- January 25, 2026 - A Wedding in Cana John 2:1–12

Lesson Outline

1. Question

- What's the most memorable wedding you've attended
- Why do you think Jesus chose a wedding for His first miracle
- How do you feel knowing Jesus cares about practical needs

Bible Truth: Jesus performed His first miracle in Cana and His glory was revealed.

Memory Verse: "And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou has kept the good wine until now." (John 2:10)

Key Themes Take-Aways

1. Jesus Cares About Everyday Needs

This wasn't a life-or-death situation. Yet Jesus stepped in. His compassion extends to the ordinary moments of our lives.

2. Transformation Begins With Obedience

The servants obeyed Jesus' unusual instructions without question. Their obedience positioned them to witness a miracle.

3. Jesus takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary

He didn't just provide wine—He provided *the best* wine. Jesus doesn't give leftovers; He gives overflowing grace.

4. Mary Models Faith and Trust

Her words, "Do whatever He tells you," remain a timeless call to discipleship.

5. Miracles Reveal Jesus' Glory

This sign wasn't about impressing the crowd. It was about revealing who Jesus truly is.

Historical & Cultural Background

Who is John:

- **Author:** The Apostle John
- **Name means:** “Yahweh is gracious”
- **Family:** Son of Zebedee and Salome, and younger brother of James. It’s also noted that he and James were cousins of Jesus through Salome and Mary who may have been sisters according to John 19:25, Matthew 27:55-56, Mark 15:40-41.
- This could explain the closeness between Jesus, James and John.
- **Occupation:** Commercial fisherman, disciple of Jesus
- **Key Theme of John:** Knowing God by Believing in Jesus Christ

The Event:

- **Canan in Galilee:** A small village in the region of Galilee, known for being the site of Jesus’ first miracle.
- **Mary:** Jesus’s mother
- **The first disciples are chosen:**
 - Andrew
 - John and James, sons of Zebedee
 - Simon Peter
 - Phillip
 - Nathanael
- **Weddings lasted several days** in Jewish culture and were major community events. Running out of wine was a serious failure of hospitality.
- **Wine symbolized joy, blessing, and celebration.**
- **Stone jars** were used for ceremonial washing—symbolizing purity. Jesus transforms water meant for ritual into wine meant for celebration.
- **This is Jesus’ first public sign**, marking the beginning of His earthly ministry.

The Scripture Reading: John 2:1-12

¹And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

²And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

³And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

⁴Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

⁵His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*.

⁶And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

⁷Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

⁸And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*.

⁹When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

¹⁰And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now.

¹¹This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

Jesus Sees The Need: (John 2:1-5)

What's happening here?

- Jesus, His mother Mary, and His new disciples were at a wedding in Cana.
- During the celebration, the wine ran out — a big problem for the family hosting the wedding.
- Mary noticed the need and told Jesus, trusting that He could help.
- Jesus answered that it wasn't yet the time for Him to fully reveal who He was.
 - He calls her “woman” not being disrespectful. It's a way of saying ma'am.
- Even so, Mary told the servants, **“Do whatever He tells you,”** showing complete faith in Jesus.

Jesus Meets The Need (vs. 6-7)

What's happening here?

- At the wedding, Jesus instructs the servants to bring Him six large jars.
- These jars were normally used for Jewish purification rituals — meaning people used the water to wash their hands before eating.
- A firkin is roughly equal to 9 gallons or 34 liters.
- Each jar held two or three firkins, meaning each jar could hold 18 to 27 gallons.
- With six jars total, Jesus' miracle produced over 100 gallons of wine.
- Jesus told the servants to fill all six jars with water.
- The servants obeyed completely — they filled the jars all the way to the top.

Why This Matters

- Jesus chose stone jars used for religious cleansing, showing that He brings a new kind of cleansing and transformation.

- Filling them “to the brim” shows the servants’ full obedience and sets the stage for a miracle that no one could claim was a trick.
- This moment prepares for Jesus to turn ordinary water into extraordinary wine.
 - Like he does with us. He takes ordinary people and do extraordinary things.

III Jesus Gets The Glory (vs. 8-12)

— The Miracle Is Revealed Quietly

- Jesus tells the servants to scoop some of the water from the jars and take it to the master of the feast (the person in charge of the wedding celebration).
 - In biblical symbolism, water often represents purification, while wine can symbolize joy and abundance.
 - This miracle foreshadows the new covenant, where Jesus transforms the old (water) into the new (wine).
 - The servants' actions also serve as a model for believers, emphasizing the importance of following Jesus' commands even when the outcome is not immediately clear.
- When the master of the feast tastes it, the water has become wine — and not just any wine, but excellent wine.
 - Presenting the wine to him first was a customary practice, ensuring the quality of the wine before serving it to the guests.
- The master doesn’t know where it came from, but the servants know exactly what happened.
 - This shows that Jesus often reveals His glory first to the humble and obedient. (James 4:6)

Verse 10 — The Master Praises the Bridegroom

- The master of the feast calls the bridegroom over.
- He’s amazed because most people serve the best wine first and then bring out cheaper wine later.

- But here, the best wine has been saved for last.
 - This highlights Jesus' character:
 - He brings abundance,
 - excellence,
 - and unexpected blessing.
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Verse 11 — The Purpose of the Miracle

- This was Jesus' first miracle (or "sign").
 - It revealed His glory — meaning it shows who He truly is: the Son of God with divine power.
 - Because of this miracle, His disciples believed in Him even more deeply.
 - Their faith moved from curiosity to conviction.
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Verse 12 — A Quiet Transition

- After the wedding, Jesus travels to Capernaum with His mother, His brothers, and His disciples.
 - The mentioning of His brothers has been interpreted in various ways, with some suggesting they were His half-brothers from Joseph and Mary.
 - They stay there for a short time before Jesus begins His public ministry more fully.
 - This shows Jesus moving from private life into His public mission.
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Discussion Questions

- Why was running out of wine such a big deal?
- What does Mary's interaction with Jesus teach us about faith?
- Why do you think Jesus used the stone jars instead of empty wine containers?
- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus' character?

Application

- Where in your life do you need Jesus to bring transformation?
- What "ordinary" areas of your life might Jesus want to touch?
- How can you practice Mary's instruction: "Do whatever He tells you"?
- What steps of obedience is God inviting you to take this week?

Fill-in-the-Blank Worksheet

John 2:1–12 — The Wedding at Cana

Part 1: Key Scripture Fill-in-the-Blanks

1. Jesus was at a _____ in the town of _____ in Galilee.
2. Jesus' _____ was there, and Jesus and His _____ were invited too.
3. When the wine ran out, Mary said to Jesus, "They have _____."
4. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the _____ with water."
5. The servants filled them _____ the way to the top.
6. When the master of the banquet tasted the water that had become _____, he said the bridegroom had saved the _____ wine for last.
7. This was the _____ of the signs Jesus performed, and it revealed His _____.
8. After this miracle, Jesus' _____ in Him.

Part 2: Understanding the Story

Fill in the missing words.

9. Running out of wine at a wedding was a big _____ in Jewish culture.
 10. Mary showed _____ in Jesus by bringing the problem to Him.
 11. The servants showed _____ by doing exactly what Jesus said.
 12. Jesus didn't just provide wine — He provided the _____ wine.
 13. This miracle teaches us that Jesus brings _____ and _____.
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Part 3: Reflection

Write a short answer for each question.

14. What does this miracle teach you about who Jesus is
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15. Where in your life do you need Jesus to bring transformation
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16. How can you “do whatever He tells you” this week
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