

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE FIRST MIRACLE (C.1.Spring.5)

Biblical Reference	John 2:1-12
Key Verse	John 2:11
Key Concept	When I read about Jesus' miracles in the Bible, I can appreciate his glory and power.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Tell the story of Jesus' first miracle, as well as the other characters in the story 2. Explain why Jesus chose a party to do his first miracle 3. Express how people reacted when they saw God's power in Jesus

### Life Application

Jesus was an open, friendly, loving person. Jesus was the type of person that we'd like to invite to a party. It's interesting that Jesus performed his first miracle in the context of a celebration. The miracles of Jesus always confirm his authority over nature (because he is creator) and always have to do with the needs of people. If Jesus cared about the needs of the people in his context, how much more should we, his disciples, care about the needs of people today. The Bible teaches us that the same power that was at work in Jesus, is at work in us as children of God.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Party	Snack, glue, names of the disciples, jars of water	20 minutes
Bible story and dialogue	Bibles, white board or paper and markers	20 minutes
Activity	Worksheet, pens, Bibles	10 minutes
Conclusions	Time line of Jesus' life, symbols, Bible verse, music	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

# Adventures with GOD!

## INSTRUCTIONS

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the key verse Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

**Party:** As much as possible, try to decorate the classroom space to look like a party or celebration. Put a table cloth on one of the tables and have some snacks on it like fruit, chips, cookies, cake, etc. On pieces of small paper, write the names of the disciples and as the children arrive, tape a name on their back. Tell them that they have to discover what name they have on their back, by asking others questions about the disciple. You can have some background music playing as they are mingling and trying to find out the name on their back. When they've all guessed their names, invite them to sit in a circle. Offer them something to drink, serving it out of a clear plastic (or glass) jug, so they can see when the drink runs out. (Have available, but not visible to the children a few jugs of water). When it runs out, ask them what they would do to serve more drinks. What would they do if they couldn't buy any more? Show them the jars of water and ask them if they would be able to change the water into juice.

# Adventures with GOD!

**Bible story and dialogue:** Give the reference for the Bible passage you will read today and ask then children to find it in their Bibles and ask one person to read it aloud. After its read, ask questions to review the story. Questions like: What can we see about the type of person Jesus was? Where did he go? What type of people was Jesus friends with? What happened in the story? How did Jesus react to his mother's request? Who recognized the power of Jesus in that instant? (The text shows that it was the servants that recognized the power of Jesus during the party) What can we learn about Jesus as we read that those he chose to reveal his power too were servants? You could also act out the story using the finger or stick puppet in the pages following. If we, as disciples of Jesus, are a reflection of Jesus to the world, "What type of people should we be?"

**Activity:** Give them the option of doing various activities during this portion of the class. Some options can be: 1. Helping to clean up the classroom and the party supplies, 2. Memorizing the Bible verse, 3. Working on a craft.

**Conclusion:** Ask that one of the children put a word on the timeline that represents Jesus' first miracle. Then, talk about the conclusions that you've come to after this story. Spend time singing and praying together.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story)

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week)

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

# Adventures with GOD!

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

# Adventures with GOD!

## INFORMATION SHEET

### Weddings in Canaan

What type of persons do we invite to parties?

1. People who are friendly, open, fun, etc.
2. In some countries it's custom to keep the doors open so that people could come in and join the party. That's what it was like in Galilee. When Jesus was invited to the wedding, his new friends were invited to.

What happened at the wedding?

1. Sometimes wedding parties lasted several days. It's possible they had been there awhile.
2. Mary talked with Jesus and told him about the lack of wine. What do you think? Why did Mary tell Jesus? (Theologians have differing ideas, some say it's because she was trying to force him to initiate his ministry. Others say she simply knew he could help fix the problem.)
3. How did Jesus respond? (He told her it wasn't time yet for a public display of his ministry.)
4. Mary immediately told the servants that they should do exactly what Jesus said.
5. It should be noted that Jesus didn't hide the miracle from the view of the servants.
6. The miracle was incredible. Water was turned into wine. (the miracles we see in the book of John are miracles of transformation.)
7. This miracle was the first supernatural sign of who Jesus. Miracles validated who Jesus was and who he was sent by. They were never done of his own will, but to follow the will of God.
8. What were the results of this miracle? (He showed his glory and his disciples believed in him.)

# Adventures with GOD!

What does it mean today to believe in Jesus?

1. Put our faith in him and his teachings.
2. Believe that he will fulfill his promises, even when it isn't easy.
3. Trust my life and the lives of my loved ones to him.
4. Remember that Philip told Nathanael, "Come and see." It's worth introducing others to Jesus.

# Adventures with GOD!

## CRAFT - Puppets

Attach sticks or make paper loops on the back to use as finger puppets.



JESUS



MARY



THE DISCIPLES



HOST



SERVANT



SERVANT