

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WEEK 2

In week 2, we see Jesus' first recorded miracle found in **John 2:1-11**. Everyone was laughing, talking, and having a good time until...the wine ran out! Jesus knew the importance of celebrating and how it would impact that family to run out of wine when the celebrations weren't done yet. So Jesus did something about it, which allowed the party to keep going.

Bottom Line: **Jesus showed us how to have joy**. Not only did Jesus heal and teach crowds of people, but he also knew how to celebrate! We hope that kids will remember that when it comes to joy, they can look to Jesus for the best example.

Host

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Several kid-appropriate dance songs that you might hear at a wedding (scripted suggestions: "YMCA" by The Village People, "Cupid Shuffle" by Cupid, "Electric Boogie" by Marcia Griffiths, "The Chicken Dance," "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Heard It Through the Grapevine
Wedding at Cana
John 2:1-11

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus showed us how to have joy.

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Someone to draw the drawings ahead of time (see "What You Do")
- Bible
- Easel
- Easel pad of paper with at least seven pages
- Pencil
- Thick poster marker

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
Philippians 4:4, NIV

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "Story Drawings" (for reference) from the LG Assets PDF

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
TWO
JULY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Heard It Through the Grapevine
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John 2:1-11

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus showed us how to have joy.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! It's great to see you today. I'm so glad you're here, because this month we're talking about joy.

"Joy is about more than just feeling happy.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Joy is **choosing to celebrate what God is doing.**

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"If we stop to remember how God has worked in the past . . . how God is working in our lives today . . . and how God will work in the future . . . then we can have joy that nothing will take away. We know that God loved us so much God sent Jesus to be our Savior—and THAT, my friends, is very good news. Because of Jesus, we always have the best reason to celebrate!

"One really fun way to celebrate is to dance! Have you ever been to a wedding where everyone was dancing to really fun songs? (Pause for responses.) Well, we've got some of those wedding songs to dance to right now. Everyone on your feet. Do the dance moves with me.

Play a segment of a "wedding song" like YMCA and teach the motions.

AUDIO: A WEDDING SONG LIKE "YMCA" BY THE VILLAGE PEOPLE, CUED UP TO START AT THE RECOGNIZABLE PART OF THE SONG (0:57)



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

Do the dance moves with the kids for about 15 seconds, then fade out the music.

“Great job! How about this next one? I always love it when I’m at a wedding and the DJ puts this on.

AUDIO: A WEDDING SONG LIKE “CUPID SHUFFLE” BY CUPID, CUED UP TO START AT THE RECOGNIZABLE PART OF THE SONG (0:12)

Do the dance moves with the kids for about 15 seconds, then fade out the music.

“I want to see our Small Group Leaders do this one. You know you’re having fun at a wedding when you hear this!

AUDIO: A WEDDING SONG LIKE “ELECTRIC BOOGIE” BY MARCIA GRIFFITHS (A.K.A. THE ELECTRIC SLIDE), CUED UP TO START AT THE RECOGNIZABLE PART OF THE SONG (0:13)

Do the dance moves with the kids for about 15 seconds, then fade out the music.

“Okay, here’s another wedding classic. Dance with me!

AUDIO: A WEDDING SONG LIKE “THE CHICKEN DANCE”

Do the dance moves with the kids for about 15 seconds, then fade out the music.

“I love it! Now let’s make up our own dance moves to some other fun songs. Turn to your small group and come up with ONE special move that all of you will do together. I’ll give you 30 seconds. Ready? Go!

Give the kids (roughly) 30 seconds to come up with their group’s special move.

“Do you have your special move? Are you ready to do your move together? Okay. We’ll start some more wedding music. When I point to your group, you’ll do your dance move along with the beat . . . and the rest of us will follow along. Here we go!

AUDIO: A WEDDING SONG LIKE “WE ARE FAMILY” BY SISTER SLEDGE

Move around the room, letting each small group demonstrate their dance move and then encouraging the rest of the room to do the move too. You can then do a “grand finale” by doing all of the moves in quick succession.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

“That was amazing! I loved seeing your joyful moves and your creativity. Now let’s keep moving our feet as we sing and worship God together.”



25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, everyone! Today I get to tell you about the very first miracle Jesus performed. We can read about it in the Bible, in the book of John. (*Hold up Bible.*) I’ve invited my friend [Host’s name] to draw some illustrations as I tell you about it. (*Calling backstage.*) Come on out, [Host’s name]!”

Host enters and gets in place in front of the pad of paper, which is facing away from the audience. Host uses the marker to finish drawing #1 on the first page (two stick figures with a heart between them). Host should use a marker and draw over the faint pencil lines that are already there.

“This miracle took place at a really joyful event where lots of people had gathered. Any guesses as to what it might have been? I’ll give you a hint. Think about the songs that you danced to earlier. What kind of occasion do you think people were celebrating? (*Pause for responses.*) Right—a wedding!”

Cue the Host to turn the easel so the audience can see drawing #1 (two stick figures with a heart between them). Host then turns the easel back around, flips to the next page, and finishes drawing #2 (Jesus and John in waist-deep water).

(*Hold up Bible.*) “We can read in the Bible about how Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We don’t know a lot about Jesus’ early years when He was a child. But we do know that as He grew up, He became wiser and stronger. We read this in the book of Luke:

Open the Bible to Luke 2:52 (NirV) and read.

Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people. (NirV)

“When Jesus was about 30 years old, He went down to the Jordan River to be baptized by His cousin John.

Cue the Host to turn the easel so the audience can see drawing #2 (Jesus and John in waist-deep water). This time, keep the easel facing the audience.

“A voice from heaven said:

Open the Bible to Matthew 3:17 (NirV) and read.

“This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.” (NirV)

“Shortly after this, Jesus began to teach . . . and people began to follow Him.

NO MORE WINE

STORYTELLER: “At this point, some people had heard about Jesus, but many others hadn’t. Everything began to change after what happened in our story today—which, as you know, took place at a wedding.



25 MINUTES

Host flips back to the first page to show drawing #1 (the couple with the heart). Then Host turns the easel back around, flips to the third page, and finishes drawing #3 (people at the wedding, trying to pour wine from an empty container).

“Jesus went to this wedding in the town of Cana, and so did His mother Mary. At the wedding, people were full of joy! They celebrated with food and wine.

“During that time, a wedding celebration could last for days. So, the family that hosted the wedding was expected to provide all the food and drinks for their guests. The wedding feast in Cana was in full swing . . . until Mary noticed a big problem. All the wine was gone!

Cue the Host to turn the easel so the audience can see drawing #3 (people at the wedding, trying to pour wine from an empty container). Host then turns the easel back around, flips to the next page, and finishes drawing #4 (Jesus and Mary talking).

JESUS AND MARY

STORYTELLER: “Mary knew that it would have been very embarrassing for the family that was hosting the wedding to run out of wine. She also knew that her Son, Jesus, was very special. She knew that He was able to do things other people couldn’t do.

Cue the Host to turn the easel so the audience can see drawing #4 (Jesus and Mary talking).

“So, Mary went to Jesus and told Him that they had run out of wine. And Jesus responded:

Open the Bible to John 2:4 (NIRV) and read.

“Dear woman, why are you telling me about this? . . . The time for me to show who I really am isn’t here yet.” (NIRV)

Host turns the easel back around, flips to the next page, and finishes drawing #5 (jar and stick figure).

“Mary turned to the servants who were helping with the feast, and she told them to do what Jesus told them to do. Then Jesus asked these servants to fill six stone jars with water.

“Now, you need to understand that these were very large jars.

Cue the Host to turn the easel so the audience can see drawing #5 (jar and stick figure).

“The jars were normally used for ceremonial washing, so they could each hold more than 20 gallons of water.

Host turns the easel back around, flips to the next page, and finishes drawing #6 (the person in charge tasting the wine and smiling because it’s very good).

WATER TO WINE

STORYTELLER: “The servants did what Jesus said and filled the six big jars with water. Then Jesus told them to dip some of the water out of the jar and take it to the person who was in charge of the dinner. The person in charge tasted the water and found that it had been turned into wine!



25 MINUTES

Cue the Host to turn the easel so the audience can see drawing #6 (the person in charge tasting the wine and smiling because it's very good).

"In fact, the person in charge thought it was the very BEST wine. He called the groom to the side and explained that people would usually bring out the best wine first at a special occasion . . . but that they had obviously saved the best wine for that moment. He said:

Open the Bible to John 2:10 (NirV) and read.

"You have saved the best until now." (NirV)

"This was an amazing miracle, and it showed how powerful and special Jesus really was. The bride and groom didn't have to be embarrassed in front of their guests . . . and everyone could continue their joyful celebration.

"Let's give [Host's name] a big hand for helping with our illustrations.

Applaud for the Host. Host waves and exits.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Jesus chose to turn water into wine as His very first miracle! Because of what He did, a group of family and friends could continue to celebrate and enjoy their time together.

Flip to the next page on the pad and draw a simple smiley face.

"You see:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Jesus showed us how to have joy.

"Let's pray."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, it's amazing to read in the Bible about the miracles Jesus performed. Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding . . . and the wedding guests were able to continue to celebrate and be joyful. Thank You for the way **Jesus showed us how to have joy.** We can find joy when we remember how much You love us, and when we think about what Jesus has done for us. We are so thankful! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “Jesus knew that it’s important for us to celebrate and have joy. We can see that in the story we heard today, about how Jesus performed a miracle and turned water into wine.

“There are lots of ways that **Jesus showed us how to have joy**. Jesus showed us the best way to live—by loving God and loving others. Jesus also showed joy in the way He treated other people.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Jesus showed us how to have joy.

“Say that with me.”

HOST AND KIDS: “Jesus showed us how to have joy.”

HOST: “Let me tell you how Jesus has brought joy to MY life.

Share a personal story about how your relationship with Jesus has given you joy.

“I know there are times in life when it can be hard to find joy. But we can always find joy when we remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what**. We can think about the good things in our lives that are really gifts from God.

“Best of all, we can think about how God loved us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. No matter what’s happening around us, we can always remember what Jesus has done . . . and find joy!

“Jesus showed us how to have joy.

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about that. I’ll see you next time, friends!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP