

John 2:1-11

Aim of Lesson

To show that Jesus used the power God gave him, for the benefit of others.

Background study

Study Jewish wedding customs. Matthew 4:2-4.

Suggested outline of lesson

Using a wedding photograph as a visual aid, introduce the subject of wedding receptions. Ask the children to talk about weddings they have attended.

On a map, show the proximity of Nazareth to Cana, and remind the children that this was the district in which Jesus had grown up. Elaborate on the wedding celebrations, the large number of guests, and the length of time the feast would last. Apparently this was no ordinary wedding since there were servants and a chief steward.

The celebrations had been going on for some time when the wine ran out. Ask the children to imagine the embarrassment resulting from a miscalculation of the amount of wine required. (Compare the situation to running out of food or drink at a party, when all the shops are shut). Possibly Mary was involved in the catering since she soon became aware of the situation. She was always conscious that Jesus was the Son of God, and knew that he could solve the problem if he wished to do so. She also knew that at this time his ministry had begun. With this knowledge Mary could say: "Do whatever he tells you", and the servants obeyed his instructions to fill up the water-jars that were used for the ritual washing of hands and utensils. These jars were so big that, when full, each would hold between twenty and thirty gallons - 150 gallons (nearly 700 litres) of wine! Furthermore, the wine was of superior quality. Point out how much effort and time is needed before good wine is ready for drinking. The vine must be planted in good soil, and fed and watered. It must absorb the warmth of the sun to ripen the fruit. The grapes must be gathered at the right time and pressed. The juice must be stored and left to ferment and mature. The power that Jesus used was from God, who is the Creator of the sun, the soil and the vine. The miracle, therefore, was a wonderful extension of God's creative power. Apparently only Mary, the servants and Jesus' disciples were aware of what had taken place. By performing the miracle as unobtrusively as possible, the happiness of the bride and groom and their guests was not affected. The action of Jesus had prevented the happy occasion from being spoiled, and the confidence of the disciples in their master was reinforced by this demonstration of power.

Relevance to the children's lives

To be a Christian we do not need to be always serious. We can enjoy ourselves at a party as Jesus did, provided we behave in a way that would please God. Think of ways in which we should not behave at parties, or when playing games.

Worksheets

These should be self-explanatory.

Prayer

Dear Lord God, we thank you and praise you for the enjoyment we can have from eating, playing, singing and dancing. Please help us always to behave ourselves in a way that pleases you. Amen.

Memory verse

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).