

Jesus Performs His first Miracle

John 2:1-11



Worship Theme:

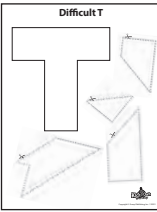


Jesus can do miracles.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will worship Jesus for the miracles he has done.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>1 Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>Sing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) • "Jesus Loves Me" • "All Around the World" • "Love the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) 	<p>KidsOwn Worship Kit: KidsOwn Worship DVD, Difficult T Puzzles</p> <p>Classroom Supplies: Video equipment, newspaper, toothpicks</p> 

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>* Amazing Colors Watch water turn different colors.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Vegetable oil, food coloring, clear cups, water, plastic knives</p>
	<p>Water to Wine Hear that Jesus turned water to wine, and try to do the same.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Pitcher of water, clear plastic cups, spoons</p>
	<p>Juice Paintings Paint a grape juice picture to help them remember the Bible story.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Grape juice concentrate, white construction paper, bowls, cotton swabs or paint brushes</p>

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	* Switcheroo Watch milk "turn" into soda.	Classroom Supplies: Soda, 1 cup per child, clean milk carton, glue stick
	* Jesus' First Miracle Dramatize the Bible story.	Classroom Supplies: 6 sheets of butcher paper, markers, paper cup
	Read All About It Create the front page of a newspaper that tells about Jesus' miracles.	Classroom Supplies: Bibles, pens, scissors, newsprint, tape, copy of the masthead (at the end of this session)

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	The Offering Listen to a song and pray while the offering is collected.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls, video equipment
	Prayer Cheer Offer cheers of praise to Jesus.	
	Closing Prayer Offer a closing prayer.	

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

Jesus Performs His First Miracle

John 2:1-11

Early in Jesus' ministry, Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding. While they were at the party that followed the wedding, the wine began to run out. Such an error would have been considered a significant social blunder at that time. Even a poor groom was expected to provide plenty of wine for his wedding party. This setting provided the occasion for Jesus' first miracle.

Mary may have been helping to serve at the wedding; thus, her appeal to Jesus was for herself as well as for the host of the party. Though some suggest that she was asking Jesus to go out and get more wine, it is more likely that she expected Jesus to do something miraculous.

When Jesus addressed his mother as "dear woman," he was not rebuking her, as it may seem; rather his words demonstrated respect. The rest of that sentence, though the exact translation is debated, appears to mean, "Your concern and mine are not the same." When he said, "My time has not yet come," Jesus was likely indicating that the proper time had not yet come for his first miracle, though it was coming. The point was that he would not be hurried, not even by his mother. The time for Jesus to be revealed as the Messiah and then to be crucified had not yet arrived.

When the master of the banquet tasted the wine, he was astonished. The quality of the wine simply reinforced the wonder of the miracle. And Jesus' "disciples put their faith in him" (John 2:11b).

Devotion for Leaders

Jesus' participation in the wedding and celebration in Cana shows his desire to be involved in all aspects of our life—including times of joy and fun.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Re-read John 2:8-10. How was the transformation of water into wine like the transformation the Lord makes in us when we have a relationship with him? As you grow in your relationship with God, he will make you, and transform you, more into his likeness. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the transformation you enjoy because of a relationship with the Messiah.

Why We Worship for Leaders

Kids idolize superheroes who tackle feat after feat of derring-do. But kids do realize that these idols aren't real and that no one can really do the kinds of things that Superman, Batman, and Spider-Man do in comic books and on TV. This is your chance to tell kids about a real, living Superhero who really can do amazing feats. Jesus can do miracles. There's nothing that's too hard for him to do. He has power over all of creation. Have fun telling kids about Jesus' ability to do amazing things, and enjoy this time of worship.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!—Make sure your video equipment is set up. You'll also need to cut up the four Difficult T Puzzle sheets.

Switcheroo—Recruit a volunteer to help you with this activity. Wash out a milk container, fill it with soda, and use a glue stick to seal the container so that it looks unused. Put the container in a refrigerator that will be accessible to your volunteer.

Jesus' First Miracle—Prepare six sheets of butcher paper by drawing water jugs, one per side, on each sheet. On each sheet, write "water" on one jug and "wine" on the other.

Read All About It—Divide a sheet of newsprint (or several sheets) into newspaper-article-shaped pieces. You'll want a piece for every three or four children. If you use more than one sheet, be sure the pieces are interchangeable from one sheet to another.


Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

1 Let's Praise God!

Play music videos from the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* as children arrive. Greet children by name, and welcome them to children's church.

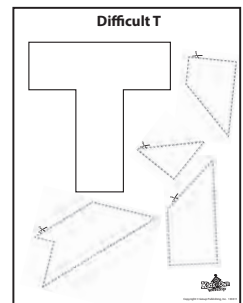
When you are ready to start,

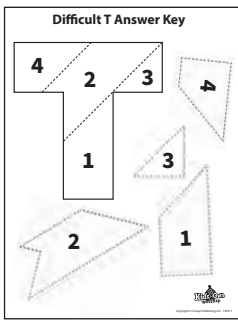
Say **Hello, everyone! Welcome to children's church. Let's start our worship session by singing about God's great love.**

 Sing "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8).

Say **It's really true that Jesus gives us hope and salvation. Jesus created the world: He made the land and the sea, and he gives us hope and salvation. Today we're going to be celebrating something else about Jesus. Here's a clue about our theme for today.**

Hold up a Difficult T Puzzle from the KidsOwn Worship Kit and some toothpicks.

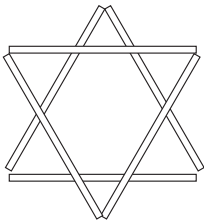
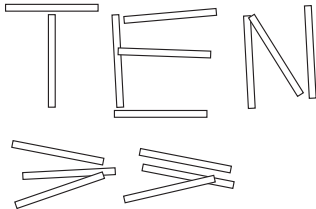




Help children form groups of 3-4 kids, and give each group one of the following: the Difficult T Puzzle (cut into pieces); 15 toothpicks; or 6 toothpicks. You can repeat puzzles as needed.

The group with the Difficult T Puzzle will try to arrange the shapes to make a capital T. The group with 15 toothpicks will try to remove six and leave 10, without breaking any. And the group with six toothpicks will try to arrange them to make eight equilateral triangles without breaking any toothpicks.

Tell kids to work together to figure out their group's puzzles. If time allows, you can have groups exchange puzzles. Answers for each puzzle are in the margin.




- Ask**
- **Did anyone figure out the puzzle?**
 - **What does it take to be able to figure out these puzzles?** (Being smarter might help; knowing the trick.)
 - **Do you think Jesus could do these puzzles?**
 - **Why do you think Jesus could easily do these puzzles—what makes Jesus different from us?** (Jesus is smarter than us; Jesus knows about everything; Jesus can do miracles.)

Say **We worship Jesus because he is God. Jesus is better at everything than we are. Jesus can do anything, even miracles.**

Let's talk about miracles for a bit.

- Ask**
- **What exactly is a miracle?** (It's something special that happens; it's like magic; it's something unexpected; it's something you can't explain.)
 - **Why can Jesus do miracles?** (Because Jesus is God; because Jesus helped create everything and he can control it.)
 - **Can people do miracles? Why or why not?** (No, because we aren't God; no, because we aren't powerful enough.)
 - **Have you ever seen a miracle? Talk about that.** (Yes, when my aunt had a baby; yes, when God kept me safe in a car accident; no.)

Say **Whether or not we've personally seen a miracle, the Bible is full of miracles that help us believe in Jesus. They help us know who he really is. Jesus knows that it's really important for us to believe in him. Let's sing about Jesus' love.**

 Sing "Jesus Loves Me."

Say **Jesus does miracles because he loves us and because he wants to help us. We worship Jesus because he can do miracles and because he does do miracles. Jesus' miracles help us see that he really is special. Doing miracles is something that only God can do. Since Jesus can do miracles, we know that he is God.**

And here's one more reason Jesus does miracles.

Show the children the front page of your local newspaper.

- Ask**
- **What kind of news gets put on the front page of the newspaper?** (The most important news; news that people will be really excited about.)

Say The most important stories are on the front page of the newspaper. More people see what's on the front page of the newspaper than what's buried on the back page. Jesus' miracles are "front-page" news. Turn to your neighbor, and tell him or her a headline you might expect to see if newspapers had been around to write about Jesus.

Give the children a moment to share with their neighbors.

Say Jesus does miracles so that more people will hear about him and more people will believe in him. Jesus' miracles make people pay attention to him. We want people all around the world to bow to Jesus. Let's sing about that.

 Sing "All Around the World."

Say Jesus really is the only way to heaven. He is the One and Only, and the Lord of our hearts. Let's sing a song that shows him our love.

 Sing "Love the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 107-108

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

** Switcheroo*

Say All of the singing we've done today has made me thirsty. Let's take a break and have something cold to drink.

Bring out a bottle of soda pop and small cups, and put them on a table at the front of the room. Be sure you only have enough soda to serve about half of the students. Invite the volunteer you talked to before the worship session to come and pour the drinks. Invite a few other children to serve the drinks to the children. While the soda is being poured and served, help the children talk about miracles.

- Ask**
- **Have you ever seen a miracle? Tell us about it.** (Yes, I saw someone get saved from a fire; no, I haven't ever seen one.)
 - **What exactly is a miracle?** (A miracle is something special that happens; it's something that is impossible that comes true.)
 - **Can people do miracles, or can only God do miracles? Explain.** (Only God can do miracles, because he is powerful; only God can do miracles, because people don't have the power to do them.)
 - **Why do you think Jesus did miracles?** (To show people that he is God; to help people.)
 - **Why is it important that Jesus could do miracles?** (Because people needed to know that he was the Son of God; people needed to see that he was different.)

When the soda is gone, have the volunteer get your attention and ask what to do. Tell the volunteer to look in the church kitchen to see if there's more soda. While the volunteer goes to the kitchen, continue talking with the children about miracles.

When the volunteer returns, he or she will have the milk carton that you prepared before the session. Have the volunteer apologize loudly and say that there was no more soda in the kitchen, but there was milk. Tell the volunteer that it's OK—some of the children will just have to drink milk instead of soda.

Have the volunteer make a big production of opening the milk container and pouring the contents into the cups. Then have the volunteer exclaim loudly enough to interrupt the discussion you're having with the children. The volunteer should say something like, "Oh my! I can't believe it. It's like a miracle. I expected to see milk. But there's soda pop in this milk carton. How can this be?" Have the volunteer continue pouring soda from the milk container into cups until every child has a cup.

Say This reminds me of a Bible story. I'll need six kids to help me tell the story.

* *Jesus' First Miracle*

Choose six children to stand at the front of the room. Give each child a sheet of paper you prepared before the session, and have the children hold the paper so the "water" side shows. Whisper to them that when you pretend to dip a cup into one of the water pitchers, they should quickly turn the papers over to show the "wine" side.



(continued on page 109)

Jesus Performs His first Miracle

John 2:1-11

Worship Theme:



Jesus can do miracles.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Amazing Colors—Gather vegetable oil, liquid food coloring, and water, as well as a clear plastic cup and a plastic knife for each child. Before the session, pour roughly equal amounts of water and vegetable oil in the plastic cups, filling them about two thirds full. Set the cups aside to let the oil and water settle into two distinct layers.

Juice Paintings—Put grape juice concentrate in small bowls. It's best to use construction paper instead of typing paper for this activity. Construction paper will absorb the juice better and make a prettier picture.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo help count the glasses in the "Water to Wine" activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today's worship session.



* Amazing Colors

Give each child a cup with layers of oil and water, and allow the children to squirt drops of food coloring into the cups. The food coloring, which is water-based, will collect in little beads on the oil. Show the children how to use the knives to gently push the beads of coloring through the oil to the water layer. Once the coloring touches the water, it will immediately mix with the water and color it. As the water is colored, make comments such as, "Isn't that amazing?" and "Oh, the colored water is so pretty."

Place the glasses in a windowsill or somewhere else where the children can admire the colors.



Ask • What happened when you squirted the food coloring into the glass?

• What happened when you pushed the little beads of coloring down to the bottom?



Say **Wasn't it amazing how the water suddenly turned a different color? Today our Bible story is about an amazing miracle that Jesus did. Jesus turned water into something completely different. Let's find out what happened.**

Water to Wine

Say One day Jesus went to a wedding.

Ask

- Have you ever been to a wedding?
- What happens at a wedding?

You may want to choose children to pretend to be a bride, a groom, and a minister, and have the children act out a wedding. Other children can be the guests or the bridesmaids and groomsmen. The children may want to act this out several times, with different children as the bride and groom each time.

Say Sometimes, after the bride and groom get married, all the wedding guests celebrate with a great big party. Jesus went to a party after the wedding he attended. But a bad thing happened at the party. They ran out of wine to drink.

Ask

- What would you think if you went to a birthday party and they ran out of cake before you got your piece?

Say That's just how the people at the wedding would've felt. So Jesus decided to help. He told the servants to bring him six water jugs. Let's pretend these cups are the water jugs.

Have the children count out six plastic cups.

Say Jesus told the servants to fill the jugs with water.

Fill the glasses with water. If you have a small plastic pitcher, you may want to have the children fill the glasses with water.

Say Then Jesus told the servants to dip some out and give it to the host of the party. When the host took a sip, he tasted wine instead of water.

Have the children use the spoons to taste the water.

Ask

- Did our water turn to wine? Why not?

Say Maybe if we try really hard, we'll be able to turn the water into wine. Let's try it.

Have the children concentrate on turning the water into wine.

Ask

- Did anything happen? Did the water turn into wine? Why not?

- Why did the water turn into wine for Jesus?

Say Jesus is God. Jesus can do miracles. We can't do miracles because we aren't God. Let's praise God for being able to do miracles. Let's all say "Praise Jesus!"

Juice Paintings

Encourage the children to paint a picture on the white construction paper with the grape juice concentrate. Provide cotton swabs or paintbrushes for them to use, and caution them not to get the grape juice on their clothes.

While the children are painting, talk about the story. Encourage them to smell their pictures. Talk about how the wine would have smelled like grape juice. Encourage them to taste the grape juice. Ask them if the grape juice tastes the same or different than water. Talk about how the wine would have tasted a bit like grape juice.

Say Jesus turned water into wine. Jesus can do miracles. You might not be able to do miracles, but you painted beautiful pictures. Take your

pictures home, and tell your families about how Jesus turned water into wine.



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

(continued from page 106)

Say One day Jesus was at a wedding. At this wedding, the hosts ran out of wine, just as we ran out of soda pop. It was a terrible, embarrassing thing to run out of wine. It would have been like inviting people to your house for dinner, then running out of food before everyone had their first helping.

Jesus' mother asked him to do something about the problem. So Jesus said, "See those water jugs?" Point to the six children holding the butcher paper. "Fill them with water." And so the servants filled the jugs with water. Let's make water noises to show that the water jugs have been filled with water.

Lead the children in saying, "Glug, glug, glug, glug." You may want to have the six children crouch near the floor and stand up slowly as the group says, "Glug, glug, glug, glug" to indicate that the jugs are being filled with water.

Say Then Jesus told the servants to get some water out of a jug and give it to the banquet master. The servants did just as Jesus said. Pretend to dip into one of the jugs with an empty cup, and have the children turn their papers over quickly. Take the empty paper cup to the volunteer who poured the soda earlier in this activity. And the banquet master said, "This stuff is great! Most people serve the best wine first and then they bring out the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best wine until last."

Jesus had turned the water into wine. This was the first miracle that Jesus did. Let's applaud our water jugs to thank them for helping tell the story.

Lead the children in applauding the six volunteers, and then have the volunteers sit down.

- Ask**
- **What do you think the servants thought when they saw the water had turned into wine?** (They were confused and didn't know what happened; they were excited that they got to see a miracle.)
 - **What do you think the servants thought about Jesus when they saw this miracle?** (They were wondering how he did that; they were trying to decide what kind of person he was.)
 - **Why do you think Jesus did this miracle?** (To help the host of the party; to show that he was God's Son; to show his power.)
 - **Do you think it was easy or hard for Jesus to do this miracle?**
Explain. (It was easy, because he is powerful; it was easy, because he liked to help people.)

Say This was the very first miracle that Jesus did. And it amazed Jesus' followers. Even today when we hear about this story, we're amazed. God is the only one who can really do a miracle. This miracle shows that Jesus was God. Let's learn more.

Worship Leader Tip

If you have more than five or six groups for "Read All About It," you may want to make two newspapers.



Read All About It

Have children form small groups of three or four. Assign each group one of the following Scriptures and the question that goes with it.

- John 10:25—What do Jesus' miracles tell us about him?
- Romans 15:18-19—Why do miracles help us believe in Jesus?
- Hebrews 2:3b-4—Why do you think God wanted us to know about salvation so much that he proved it through miracles?

Give the groups several minutes to discuss the Scripture passage they've been assigned. Then ask for individuals to share their small group's insights with the entire group.

Say **Miracles help us believe in Jesus. And they help spread the news about the amazing God that we serve. We worship Jesus because he is God—and part of being God is the ability to do miracles. Let's think about how we can spread the news about Jesus to others.**

Hand out the pieces of newsprint you prepared before the worship session so that each small group has one piece. Also give each group a colored pen or pencil. Make sure Bibles are available, too.

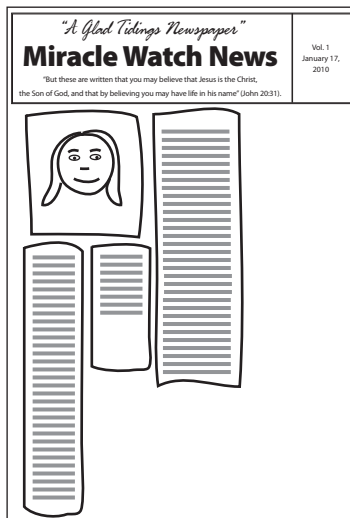
Explain to the children that they are to look through the Gospels, choose one of Jesus' miracles, and write a short news article (or draw a picture and write a short cutline) about it on the sheet of paper they've been given. Tell them to think of a headline for their story first and write it at the top of the page. Under the headline, have them include the facts about the miracle and its significance—why they think Jesus did the miracle, how the people reacted to the miracle, and how we can react to the miracle today.

Give the children 10 minutes to work on their news article or picture. Then get the groups' attention, and have each group read its article. If you have more than five or six groups, you may just want to have someone in each group tell what miracle the group wrote about and why.

Have each group bring its article to the front of the room. Tape the articles to a sheet of fresh newsprint to form the front page of a newspaper—it's OK if all the text doesn't go the same direction. Be sure to photocopy the masthead from the end of this session and tape it at the top of the front page. (See the example in the margin.)

Show children the finished newspaper. Read aloud the title of the newspaper from the masthead, and read the verse printed underneath the title.

- Ask**
- **What have you learned about Jesus and the miracles he's done?** (Jesus did a lot of miracles; Jesus used his miracles to tell people about God.)
 - **Why are Jesus' miracles such a big deal?** (Because not everyone can do miracles; because Jesus made impossible things happen.)



Say Jesus' miracles are a very big deal. They show us that Jesus is God, and they show us how much he loves us and cares about us. Think about the miracles Jesus did. Every single one was done to help people. Jesus' miracles show us and the entire world how great he really is.

3 Let's Pray!

The Offering

▶ While you take the offering, play "Into the Bible." Tell the children to think about Jesus' miracles in the Bible while they listen to the song.

Say While you're waiting for the offering bowl to come to you, think about the words of this song and silently pray to Jesus. Thank him for the miracles he's done, and praise him for being able to do miracles.

Prayer Cheer

Say The Bible tells us that Jesus' followers began to praise God joyfully for all the miracles they'd seen. Now, it's our turn to praise Jesus joyfully for all the miracles he's done.

Draw an imaginary line down the middle of the room and indicate that all the children on one side of the line are Group 1. All the children on the other side are Group 2. Explain that individuals will come to the front of the room and call out a miracle that Jesus did. Then Group 1 will call out "Jesus can do miracles." Group 2 will respond by calling out, "Nothing is impossible with God."

Invite volunteers to come to the front to call out a miracle. Have the two groups respond to each miracle by calling out their lines.

After children have responded to several miracles, have them praise Jesus with applause and cheers—"Thank you, Jesus" and "We praise you, God," for example.



Closing Prayer

Ask one of the children to close the worship session in prayer, or pray yourself.

Pray Dear Jesus, today we praise you because you can do miracles. You are a great and mighty God, and nothing is too difficult for you. We thank you for doing miracles to teach us about who you are. And we thank you for doing miracles to help us believe in you and understand the salvation that you offer us. Thank you, Lord Jesus. In your name, amen.

"A Glad Tidings Newspaper"

Miracle Watch News

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

Vol. 1



Encouragement for Leaders

Your love for children and willingness to share your time and effort will have an eternal impact. Thank you!