

# Lesson Seven

## *Having Faith in Christ*



### Growing as a Teacher

#### Scripture

John 2:1-12

#### Bible Truth

Jesus' miracle at the wedding revealed his glory and caused his followers to believe in him.

#### Lesson Aim

To understand that Jesus is the Son of God and to have faith in him, knowing that he cares about his children.

Weddings, parties and other gala occasions are special and enjoyable. We look forward to them, and it's fun to get ready for such a big event.

It was no different in Jesus' day. Children and grown-ups alike enjoyed festive merrymaking. A wedding feast was a long, happy party that often lasted for days, and there was usually plenty of food, wine and music.

No doubt Jesus was enjoying the wedding in Cana, and we can be sure that our Savior is pleased with the joyful occasions of our lives as well. In fact, he is interested in all aspects of our lives—from the everyday to the sublime.

When Jesus rescued the host from embarrassment by changing water to wine at the wedding, Jesus not only revealed his deity, glory and power, he also demonstrated his care and concern for those in distress. The sovereign Son of God is sympathetic to our needs and eager to help.

As you pray, ask the Lord to develop within each child a sensitive spirit that will recognize needs in the world and a desire to help because that is what God would have him or her do.

No matter where we are and what we are about, when we trust the Lord to supply our needs and thank him for what he has done for us and for who he is, we bring glory to his name. Now that's something to celebrate!

#### *Bible Background*

Jesus' first recorded miracle at the wedding in Cana is the first of seven "signs" John's gospel highlights. Each miracle-sign points to something about the person and mission of Jesus. In explaining their purpose, the apostle John states: "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).

And that is just what happened at Cana—Jesus revealed his glory, his disciples saw who he was and what he was able to do, and they "put their faith in him" (John 2:11).

The sovereign Son  
of God is sympathetic  
to our needs and  
eager to help.

#### Memory Verse

Review:

JOHN 3:16

MARK 14:38a



## Lesson Seven at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
1 Welcome	5-10	Have a party to prepare for the story of the wedding in Cana and the first of Jesus' miraculous signs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Streamers and balloons <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks <input type="checkbox"/> CD or cassette player <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded children's praise and worship music
2 Bible Time	15-20	Hear Mary, the mother of Jesus, tell the story of the wedding in Cana.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 7 Water into Wine* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional:</i> Bible-times clothing
3 Memory Verse	5-10	Play <i>Memory Toss</i> (p. 37) to review John 3:16. Play the circle game <i>Watch Out!</i> (p. 49) to review Mark 14:38a.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 4b John 3:16 cube* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 medium-sized rubber ball
4 Activities	10-15	Do activities to reinforce the Bible Truth.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 7**</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Markers or crayons
5 Final Focus	5	Say a prayer expressing trust in Jesus and thanking him that he cares for us.	

Total time: 40-60 minutes

\* *Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack*  
 \*\* *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*



### Enrichment

Ask children to look up 2 Peter 3:18a and Hebrews 4:15, and to practice reading them. Have them read these verses aloud to the class at the end of the Memory Verse step.



## Practical Preparation

To prepare for this week's lesson, gather the items you need from the list of Supplies. Before the children arrive for Sunday school, spend a few minutes decorating the classroom. You may want to hang a few colorful streamers and balloons, and have on hand simple snacks such as fruit, nuts, crackers and juice for the children. To add to the festive atmosphere, play praise and worship songs for children to listen to and enjoy while they have a party. Use the *Younger Elementary Vol. 2* CD if possible.

Practice telling the Bible story from Mary's point of view. Be familiar with the details and dialogue so that you are not tied to the manual as you tell the children about the wedding in Cana.

Once again, you will play *Memory Toss* (see Memory Verse, p. 37) and *Watch Out!* (Memory Verse, p. 49) to review the memory work. Review the game rules and note that you will need TA 4b and a rubber ball for this segment. Practice reading the repeat-after-me closing prayer in Final Focus so that it flows smoothly when you say it with the children.





## Welcome

5–10 minutes

Play praise and worship music and greet the children as they arrive. *Tell them* Today we are having a short welcome party. I am glad that you are in Sunday school and I am glad that you are in my class.

Pass around snacks and encourage the children to sing along if they know the words of the songs being played. In this segment, children may visit with each other and with you, and generally enjoy the relaxed party atmosphere.

After a few minutes, turn off the music, put away the snacks and gather the children around you. *Ask* What kind of party do you like best? Listen as the children respond and encourage them to share how they feel at such events.

*After a time of sharing, say* A party is a celebration, isn't it? It is a special time to really enjoy ourselves with others. Today we are going to hear about a wedding celebration during the time of Jesus. There were many people there, plus lots of food and music. It was one big happy party!



## Bible Time

15–20 minutes

Open your Bible to John 2:1–12 and show the children the passage. Tell them that today's story comes from this part of the Scriptures and that you are telling the story while pretending to be Mary, Jesus' mother.

**My name is Mary and I am the mother of Jesus. Many years ago, the angel of the Lord came to me and told me that I would become the mother of the Son of God. The angel even told me to name him Jesus! What amazing news!**

When the baby was born, kind shepherds came to visit him. Later on, a bright star appeared and wise men brought gifts to the young Christ. And I still remember the time when Jesus was 12 and he sat in the temple courtyard among the teachers. Everyone was amazed at how wise and intelligent he was.

Jesus was obedient and helpful at home, and those who knew him loved him. He grew well, and when he was about 30 years old, he started his ministry—the work God had called him to do.

One day I went to a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus and his disciples were there as well. Everyone was having a good time—the bride, the groom and all the guests.

## Early Arrivals



Encourage early birds to help you decorate the classroom. They can hang streamers and balloons,\* and set out snacks. Using colored construction paper and markers, they also may make decorations of their own if they wish—paper chains, banners and party headbands.

*\*Because of the risk of asphyxiation due to inhalation of broken balloon fragments, only adults should blow up the balloons.*



## Teaching Tip

Be sure that your Bible story has an introduction, body, climax and conclusion. Lead the children into the heart of what's going on and help them feel the story. Tell it actively, tying all the ends together, and be certain that the story makes its own point.



## Something Extra!

To help make the Bible story come alive as you tell it, wear Bible-times clothing. A bathrobe or long tunic and a large square of fabric or scarf for a head covering will do.



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### Teaching Tip

In today's society, there is a great emphasis on drug awareness. In some educational settings, children are taught that drugs include nicotine and alcohol, and that people who use such materials are evil. You may need to help your students understand that during Jesus' time, wine was a normal mealtime beverage and those who drank it were not doing something wrong.

There was lots of food and wine to drink.

During the long, wonderful party, the wine ran out. I didn't want the host to feel embarrassed, so I went and spoke to Jesus—I knew he could do something about the problem. "They have no more wine," I told him.

"Why do you involve me?" Jesus wanted to know. "My time has not yet come."

Still, I knew I had to speak to the servants. "Do whatever Jesus says to do," I told them.

There were six stone water pots nearby. They were used by Jews for ceremonial washing, and each could hold a lot of water. "Fill the jars with water," Jesus told the servants. When the water pots had been filled to the top, Jesus said, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." And the servants did what Jesus said.

The master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not know where it had come from—though, of course, the servants knew—and he called the groom aside. "Everyone brings out the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone is full at the wedding feast, the host brings out the cheaper wine. But you have saved the best wine until now!" *Show the children TA 7 Water into Wine.*

Turning water into wine at Cana in Galilee was the first sign of Jesus' glory. The disciples saw that he was God's Son, the Savior of the world, and they put their faith in him.

After the wedding, I went down to Capernaum with Jesus, his brothers and his special followers. I remember spending a lot of time thinking about the great things Jesus said and did.

If you wore Bible-times clothing, remove the robe or tunic and head covering. Close this segment with a short time of prayer. Encourage volunteers to say sentence prayers, thanking Jesus that they can trust him and thanking him that he cares for them—just as he cared for the people at the wedding party.



## Memory Verse

5-10 minutes

*Remind the children that* When Jesus turned the water into wine, he displayed his glory. That means he showed that he was God's Son by what he did. *Ask* What did the disciples do when Jesus displayed his glory? *(The disciples saw and put their faith in him.)*

*Point out that* God's only begotten Son left heaven and came down to earth to do a lot more than turn water into wine. He came to die for us—his people from all parts of the world—because he loves us so much.



Have the children stand in a circle. Have TA 4b John 3:16 cube available for *Memory Toss* to review John 3:16 (see *Memory Verse*, p. 37). Toss the cube to a volunteer and have the child read or say the part of the verse on the side of the cube facing up. Now ask the class to complete the verse. Have the volunteer toss the cube back to you, then you repeat the process with another student.

At an appropriate point in the review game, ask **Who will have eternal life?** (*those who put their faith in Jesus*) Continue playing until the entire verse has been reviewed and several children have had opportunity to catch the cube and say part of the verse.

Replace the cube with a ball and go over Mark 14:38a with the class by playing the circle game *Watch Out!* (see *Memory Verse*, p. 49). You stand in the middle of the circle and gently toss the ball to a student when he or she least expects it. This time when you play, the student who catches the ball may lead the class in saying Mark 14:38a. Toss the ball a few times so that the verse is reviewed more than once. At the end of the game, have the children return to their seats.



## Activities

10–15 minutes

Give each child a copy of *At Home* 7. Make sure that there are pencils and crayons or markers for everyone. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

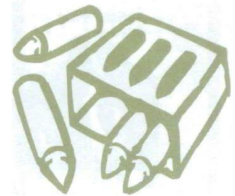
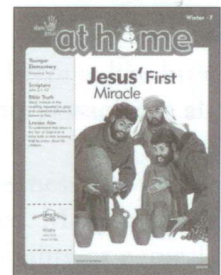
In *I Trust Jesus*, help the children fill in the blanks and then read the message. As they work on their drawings, talk about the story. **Answers: He cares for me; 6**

If you think the *Change a Word* puzzle might be difficult for your students, here are some suggestions: Don't read any of the words until all the blanks are filled in. Help them go down the columns, filling in the letters. Once they are finished, *then* go back and read the words, pointing out places where they look like they should rhyme, but don't. Finally, talk about how the top and bottom words relate to the story. You may need to engage the students in a brief discussion to generate ideas for the final activity. Allow them to draw or write their answers.

After the children have completed their activities, read the poem "He Cares for Me" on the back page of the *At Home* paper. If there's time, discuss the last verse of the poem. Help the children understand that Jesus died on the cross to take care of our biggest need of all—the forgiveness of our sins. He died for his children because he loves them.

## Optional Memory Work

If you taught children to memorize 2 Peter 3:18a and Hebrews 4:15, this would be a good time to review these verses. You may want to play *Watch Out!* (p. 49) or help students make memory verse cubes (using the TA 4b John 3:16 cube as a pattern) for *Memory Toss* to go over the verses.





# 5

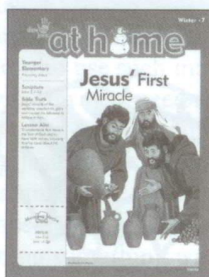
## Final Focus

5 minutes



### Items to Send Home

At Home 7



Gather the children around you in a circle and tell them that you are going to close with a repeat-after-me prayer. Remind them that you will speak first and then everyone will answer together. Tell the students that when you speak they must listen to your words. When you stop speaking, they are to say each time: "I trust in you, Jesus." At the end, after you say the phrase "... as we say together," everyone will say "Amen."

- Teacher: **Dear Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of God.**  
 Children: I trust in you, Jesus.  
 Teacher: **You changed water into wine.**  
 Children: I trust in you, Jesus.  
 Teacher: **The disciples saw the miracle and put their faith in you.**  
 Children: I trust in you, Jesus.  
 Teacher: **They saw a glimpse of your glory.**  
 Children: I trust in you, Jesus.  
 Teacher: **We know that you have God's power, because you are God.**  
 Children: I trust in you, Jesus.  
 Teacher: **Thank you that you can save your people from their sins.**  
 Children: I trust in you, Jesus.  
 Teacher: **Thank you that you love us.**  
 Children: I trust in you, Jesus.  
 Teacher: **Thank you that you care about our lives and the things that we do.**  
 Children: I trust in you, Jesus.  
 Teacher: **Thank you for all that you are to us, Jesus. We close our prayer in your precious name as we say together . . .**  
 All: **Amen.**

As the children get ready to leave, remind them to share their take-home papers with their families. Say good-bye to each child individually and encourage everyone to have a good week.