

The Wedding Surprise

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He helps me with any problems.

● **Memory Verse**
"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Word of the Week
"Provide" - To provide is to give someone something they need. Jesus provides you with so many good things. He has given you a family, a home, food, and, most important, His never-ending love.

This week's lesson
 is based on **John 2:1-11** and ***The Desire of Ages*, pp. 144-153.**

Sunday

An Invitation

There would be a family wedding in the little town of Cana. How exciting! And Jesus was invited. He wasn't the only one invited. Mary, His mother, would be there too, along with other family and friends.

Who else had been invited? Read **John 2:2**.

Weddings are such a happy time to celebrate the love between a man and a woman. Right from the creation of the world, God asked a man to "leave his father and mother and be united with his wife" (Genesis 2:24, ICB). Marriage is something God created. It is a special forever promise between a man and a woman who love each other.

Jesus and His disciples wanted to be at the wedding to celebrate with the happy couple too. Off they went, down the road toward Cana in Galilee.

I Wonder

- » Have you ever been to a wedding? What did you see? What happened?
- » Why do you think Jesus wanted to go to the wedding?

● **Prayer Idea**
 Thank Jesus for the good things He gives us, such as family and friends.

● **Mission Challenge**
 Look for someone who seems sad or lonely and give them a smile. Tell them Jesus loves them!

Monday

A Wedding

Happy music filled the air. People chatted and smiled. The wedding was going wonderfully. The bride and groom sat back together, eating delicious food and sipping grape juice. What a celebration!

Their families had come from all over the country to be with them. Jesus and His disciples had come too.

Mary smiled. She was so happy that Jesus had come to the wedding. She hadn't seen Him for so many weeks. She gave Him a big hug hello.

Mary looked into Jesus' face. "He had no special beauty" on the outside, but His words and actions were always pure and lovely (Isaiah 53:2, ICB).

Mary noticed that the disciples watched Jesus closely too. They showed Him great respect and called Him Master. There were others at the wedding who kept glancing over at Jesus too. Excitedly they talked to their friends about the wonderful things they had heard about Him.

But happy, humble Jesus wasn't at the wedding to take the attention away from the bride and groom. He had come to quietly enjoy the wedding party. And to spread God's goodness and happiness wherever He could.

How can we be lovely like Jesus? Read **1 Peter 3:3, 4**.

I Wonder

- » What instruments do you think they might have played at the wedding?
- » What food do you think they ate?
- » Have you ever done something to show God's love in a quiet, gentle way?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to give you a lovely heart like His.

Do

Draw a big heart on paper. Together, with a parent's help, write down the beauty that comes from inside our heart (for example: gentle hands, kind words).

Memory Verse





Tuesday

The Big Problem

Empty. Empty. Empty. The wedding servant shook his head as he peered into another dry, empty pitcher that had once held the sweet grape juice (unfermented wine). *How did this happen? How did the grape juice run out so quickly?*

Inside, the servants could hear the happy music and the laughing, chatting people. The party was nowhere near finished. The bride and groom would be so upset if they knew the grape juice was all gone. The guests would be very disappointed too. *Oh, no!*

The servants frowned and whispered to each other. *How would they find enough grape juice to last the rest of the wedding party?* There were no shops to go to. There was no way to get any more grape juice. But they had so many guests!

Soon Mary heard about their big problem. She knew that she could trust big problems to her even bigger God. What does the Bible say about impossible problems? Read **Matthew 19:26**.

God could provide for their needs.

Looking around the room, Mary saw Jesus talking with His disciple friends. She hurried over and stood in front of Him. In a quiet voice Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine" (John 2:3).

Mary knew she could go to Jesus for help. You can too! No problem is too big for Him.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you trusted God with a problem, and He provided for you.

I Wonder

- » Can you think of a time someone asked you for help? Share what happened.
- » How has Jesus provided for you this week?
- » Is there any problem you want to tell Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to remind you to talk to Him when you have problems.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

The Miracle

Jesus looked at the worried servants and their empty pitchers. Yes, He would help them! By the door stood six empty water jars made of stone. Jesus turned to the servants and said, "Fill the waterpots with water" (John 2:7).

The servants raced off to do exactly what Jesus had told them.

Glug-glug-glug. Glug-glug-glug. The water splished and splashed into the big heavy jars. One . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . five . . . six jars were filled to the top.

The people at the party were getting thirsty. They had started to ask for their empty cups to be refilled. The servants looked at Jesus, waiting for His next instruction. What did Jesus say to them? Read **John 2:8**.

The servants were confused. But they chose to trust Jesus and obey. Carefully they poured the water into a cup and gave it to the master.

Sip, sip. His eyes opened wide. Then his lips turned up into a smile. This cup was full of the sweetest, freshest, most delicious grape juice he had ever tasted!

The master excitedly called the groom over. "People always serve the best wine first," he said to the groom. "But you have saved the best wine till now" (John 2:10, ICB).

The servants were amazed. They had just seen a miracle with their very own eyes. Jesus had turned water into the most pure grape juice! He had provided just what they needed.

I Wonder

- » What have you sipped or tasted that surprised you?
- » Whom did Jesus help in this story?
- » How do you think the story might have ended if Mary and the servants hadn't taken their problem to Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that "with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Do

Put some water in a cup. Ask for help from a parent or caregiver to make it surprisingly good. You might add honey or something sweet. Then offer it to another family member and see their delight. Thank Jesus for turning a problem into something good.

Memory Verse





Thursday

Spreading the News

Smiling and laughing, the servants carried their jars of miracle grape juice around to the thirsty guests. Jesus had provided delicious, unfermented wine to fill every single empty cup.

The guests sipped and smiled and slurped some more. What sweet, delicious juice! *Where had this come from?* they wondered. They had never tasted anything like it!

The guests called for the servants and began to ask questions about the grape juice. The servants couldn't hold in their excitement. They told everyone the amazing story of Jesus and His miracle.

Wow! Everyone began to talk about Jesus. His disciple friends began to talk about Him too. This was Jesus' first miracle. The Bible says, "He showed his glory, and his followers believed in him" (John 2:11, ICB). They were so glad they had left everything to follow Him.

Finally, after many days, the wedding party came to an end, and people returned home. But their excitement went with them. Wherever the guests went, they told their friends the story of Jesus and the miracle juice. Their friends told their families, and they told their friends. Soon it seemed as if everyone was talking about Jesus.

Even the priests and leaders became curious when they heard about this humble yet powerful Teacher.

What things does the Bible tell us to talk about? Read **Psalm 145:4-6**.

I Wonder

- » What is your favorite type of juice?
- » Can you think of something amazing Jesus has done in your life that you could share with someone else today?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for all the ways He has provided for your needs.

Do

Pour everyone a cup of juice together. For every sip, share a way that God has helped you or blessed you in some way.

Memory Verse



Friday

Miracle Matches

Mother opened and shut each cupboard door in the kitchen with a loud bang. She couldn't find a single match anywhere to light their stove. It was nearly Sabbath. And it was much too late for a trip to the faraway shops on their island home in Fiji.

Four-year-old John watched his mother closely. Finally he asked, "Can we pray about the matches, Mother?"

Mother was surprised, but answered, "Of course." She knew John believed that no problem was too small for God. She also knew that "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

John prayed, "Dear Jesus, thank You for Your love. Please help us to have a match so we can have hot milk with our breakfast tomorrow morning. Amen." Mother smiled and gave John a hug.

When John woke up the next morning, he remembered his prayer and began to look around the house. Finally his eye caught sight of a little box stuck between the front door and the screen. John pulled it out and slid it open. His heart leaped with joy. Racing to his mother's bedroom, he waved the little box in the air. "Look, Mother, it's matches! I think God's angel must have brought them during the night."

Inside the box were little white matches with silvery white tips. Mother had never seen matches like those before.

Together they knelt down. They thanked God for hearing their prayer about something as simple as a match, and for answering in such a powerful way. Then with happy hearts they went to the kitchen to light the stove and have warm milk with their breakfast.

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I Wonder

- » How is this story like the water-to-wine miracle in this week's Bible story?
- » What does this miracle show us about Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He is our God who helps us with our problems.

Do

Go for a nature walk. What is the tiniest piece of nature you can find? Isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus cares about all our problems—teeny-tiny ones and big ones?

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about a problem you may have. Find an object or draw a picture to remind you of this problem. Imagine your memory box is a "mailbox to Jesus." Mail your problem to Jesus and say a prayer, asking God to help you.

For You, Parents

"Christ is a 'tried stone.' Those who trust in Him, He never disappoints" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 598).

Setting the Table

It was Sunday morning, and Joanne looked into the empty cupboards with a sigh. They had no food left, and no money to buy any more. Father had left the family and moved away after Mother started going to a Seventh-day Adventist church in the U.S. state of Oregon. "If you choose God, let your God feed you," their father had said. "Let your God clothe you."

Mother didn't have a job, and she cried and prayed in her bedroom that Sunday. When lunchtime came, Joanne's younger sister complained, "I'm hungry." Her older brother sat still, trying to be brave even though he had no way to get them some food.

Then Joanne remembered reading in *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories* about children who were helped by angels when they prayed. "All we have to do is pray!" she said.

Joanne didn't know how to pray, but she started anyway. "Hello, God. We are really hungry. Would You send us something to eat, please?"

The children waited. No food. Hours passed, and dinnertime came. The children grew more hungry. Mother continued praying in the bedroom.

Then Joanne said, "Oh, I know what we did wrong! God doesn't think that we believe Him, because we didn't set the table." Quickly they set the table. Joanne prayed, "Sorry about that, God. Could You please send us some food now? The table is set, and we're ready!"

But nothing came. The children climbed into bed, hungry and disappointed. Early in the morning they woke up even hungrier. The children opened the front door to go to school, but their path was blocked—by a huge box filled with food!

Excitedly the children called Mother to the door. Mother couldn't believe her eyes. God had provided just what they needed! "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

That was the moment that Joanne knew that God lives and that He loves her.

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