

Church Year Story 9

*Catechism and Memory Verse
from the Congregation at Prayer for the Week*

BIBLE STORY: CHANGING WATER INTO WINE

John 2:1-11

Central Thoughts

- Sin and death came into the world in the first marriage and family when Adam and Eve turned away from God's Word.
- Jesus' miracle of changing water into wine at a wedding shows Him to be the Redeemer of creation.
- Jesus did not come to destroy marriage and family, but to make all things new through His forgiveness.
- Our Baptism gives us the miracle of faith and the hope of everlasting life in Jesus.
- Jesus' miracle of changing water into wine manifests His glory because it shows His love for sinful man.

Discussion Questions

Where did Jesus' first miracle take place?

At a wedding in Cana of Galilee

Who was invited to the wedding?

Jesus' mother, Jesus, and Jesus' disciples

What problem happened at the wedding feast?

They ran out of wine.

What was Jesus' talking about when He told His mother that His hour had not yet come?

It was not yet time for Him to die upon the cross.

What did Jesus' mother tell the servants to do?

To listen to Jesus' word and to do whatever He told them.

What were the six waterpots of stone used for?

Purification according to the custom of the Jews

What does purification remind us of?

The cleansing of forgiveness

What happened to the water that was drawn out of the water pots and given to the steward?

It had become wine.

What Old Testament miracle does this remind us of?

When the water was turned into blood in Egypt.

What does blood remind us of?

Jesus' blood which cleanses us from sin

What does the steward of the feast say to the bridegroom?

"Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine ... but you have kept the good wine until now."

What does this saying of the steward teach us?

The work of redemption that Jesus came to perform will not only save us from sin, but it will restore paradise and life with God and make things better than they were in the Garden of Eden.

What are we taught by Jesus miracle being performed at a wedding?

He has come to redeem marriage and family. Even though Adam and Eve, the first husband and wife, sinned, Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world but save the world through shedding His blood for us upon the cross.

What is our hope as Christians?

We look forward to the resurrection of the body and eternal life with Christ where there will be no more sin and death.

How does this miracle “manifest” or show Jesus’ glory?

It proclaims His love for fallen humanity and His desire to make all things new through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name.

What happened when the disciples saw Jesus’ glory?

His disciples believed in Him.

How do we see Jesus’ glory and come to faith in Him?

By the Word of God

Meditation on the Bible Story

Changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee is called “the beginning of signs” that Jesus performed, which “manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.” Every miracle of Jesus teaches us something about what He came to do in His saving work. This is why they are called signs. In this “first sign” Jesus shows that He is the redeemer of fallen humanity. Sin entered into the creation in the context of the first marriage. Adam and Eve turned from the Lord’s life-giving Word when they ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Through the one-flesh union of Adam and Eve, all humanity became sinful. The corruption of original sin passed on to all the descendants of Adam and has infected every marriage and family ever since. Jesus’ miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee shows that He has not abandoned the institutions of marriage and family, but has rather come to redeem them.

The glory that Jesus manifests (John 2:11) is the glory of God’s sacrificial love that moved Him to die for us, that fallen humanity might be reconciled to God. In Christ’s sacrifice of love for His bride the Church, marriage and family are restored to what God intended them to be at creation: a reflection of His love in the procreation of children and in the benevolent dominion over the creation. The transformation of water into wine is a sign that the old creation is made new by the forgiveness of sins, and that the new creation will never again be corrupted by sin. Paradise restored is better than the paradise that was lost, as the steward of the feast confessed: “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine ... but you have kept the good wine until now.” Humanity, marriage, and family find their fulfillment in Christ.

God places the blessings of Jesus’ forgiveness, rescue from death and the devil, and the gift of eternal salvation into the water of Holy Baptism by God’s Word. Holy Baptism is the miracle of water and the Word by which we are joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation. “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Prayer on the Bible Story

Heavenly Father, in the wedding in Cana of Galilee, Jesus turned water into wine, showing Himself to be the Savior of sinful man and the redeemer of marriage and family. By this miracle Jesus manifested His glory and His disciples believed in Him. Show Jesus’ glory to us through the faithful teaching of God’s Word that we, too, might believe in Jesus and receive the hope of new life and salvation in Him. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



Jesus Turns the Water into Wine
John 2:1-11