



SESSION ONE

JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE

BIG IDEA

HE DID SOMETHING SO AMAZING

that people still talk about it.

PREP *(Kids can help)*

- Find a tissue and a pipe cleaner (or twist-tie) for each person
- A banner made of 4-5 pieces of A4 paper stuck together with 'Our family is worth celebrating' written on it in large letters
- A plate of party food (perhaps a cake or cupcakes)
- Party drink and cups (bring out only enough drink for the adults, saving the children's portion for later)

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- A4 sheet of paper for everyone
- Felt tips or crayons
- Decorative stickers (optional)
- Tissues and pipe cleaners
- Scissors



INTRO

- Give everyone a piece of card or paper and felt pens, and ask them to draw a sign or advertisement. It could be one they have seen somewhere on a billboard/shop/street, or they could make up their own.

When you drive down the motorway or walk in the street have you ever noticed that there are lots of signs on big billboards? Some are lit up and blink at you and others are coloured very brightly. Some signs are important – they tell us the way to go and when to stop, but other signs are there just to persuade us to like or buy something. Part of growing up is learning what signs matter and need to be obeyed, and what signs we can ignore. But the big thing about signs is that they do everything they can to get our attention.

- Have everyone hold up their sign and tell if it is an important sign we should pay attention to, or just an advertisement trying to sell us something.

Well, God wants to get our attention too. When Jesus came to earth he did signs and wonders that were a bit like billboards – good billboards that got people's attention and changed their lives. The magnet this month, to go on the lid of our tin, says Jesus is God's promise to mend our broken world. When Jesus did a miracle it was usually because he understood people's struggles and problems.

- Find this magnet and place it on your Faith Box tin lid.

Jesus gave some signs which demonstrated that he was more than just a good man – he was God's son. When he performed miracles Jesus' disciples started to realise how very unique he was. His first miracle was at a wedding in Cana in Galilee. Everything at the celebration was going just fine – until they ran out of wine.

In Jesus' time a wedding was an important event – just as it is today. But their celebrations could last for a whole week! It was extremely important for the host to make sure there was plenty of good food and drink for the whole week. To run out of wine would be embarrassing and terribly shameful for the bride and groom and their family.

Jesus was at the wedding feast to join in the celebration and festivities – and celebrating is something that God loves. God celebrated when he had finished creating the world, and he celebrates when babies are born, and when people fall in love and get married. He loves our family parties when we enjoy laughter and fun together and celebrate birthdays, prizes and special achievements.

- Take out your 'our family is worth celebrating' banner and some felt tips or stickers. Children can decorate the banner and take turns at writing on the banner why your family is worth celebrating. Everyone contribute - you can prompt them with some ideas. (e.g. because we have fun together; we are all into sailing; we all love each other; we make good jokes!) You can keep writing while you eat.



- Take out the plate of party food, cups, and party drink.
- “Yes... It's time for a party!”
- Start to pour out the drink for the adults, but run out before the children get any. Make a big deal of running out and not having enough.

READ

“ The occasion when Jesus did his first miracle was a bit like this. A family who were having a special celebration found themselves without enough drink to go around.

Jesus had just chosen twelve men to follow him and be his friends. These friends knew that Jesus was different from anyone they had ever known and that he brought God's special love with him. They weren't necessarily the strongest and the cleverest people. But the people God uses don't have to know a lot of things or be rich or strong, they just have to know they need God a lot. These men became known as Jesus' disciples.

Not long after this, with several of these friends, Jesus attended a wedding at the town of Cana in Galilee. While they were there, a big problem arose for the family – the wine ran out and nothing was left to serve to the guests. Jesus' mother Mary was also at the wedding. She was upset because she knew the hosts would be embarrassed and helpless, so she went to Jesus and asked for his help.



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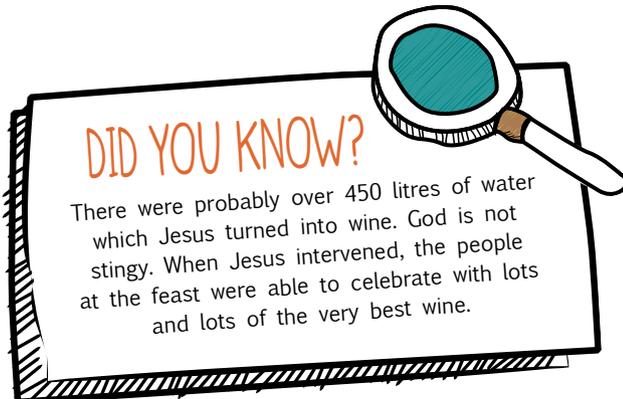
Jesus listened to his mother. He knew it was not their problem but he decided to do something about it anyway. Mary trusted Jesus and told the servants and helpers to listen to him and to do whatever he said.

There were six big containers used for holding water. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water and then take a cupful of the drink to the head waiter who was in charge of the wedding feast.

He drank some of the water that had become wine (the servants knew where it had come from, but the headwaiter didn't). Then he called the bridegroom over and said, "This is wonderful stuff! You're different from most people. Usually a host uses the best wine first and afterwards, when everyone is full and doesn't care, then he brings out the wine that is not so good. But you have kept the best for last!"

This was the very first miracle that Jesus ever did. The people were amazed and Jesus' disciples now believed more than ever that he was sent by God and really was the Messiah. ”

John 2:1-12 (paraphrase)



DID YOU KNOW?

There were probably over 450 litres of water which Jesus turned into wine. God is not stingy. When Jesus intervened, the people at the feast were able to celebrate with lots and lots of the very best wine.

FAMILY TALK TIME

- Bring out some more party drink and this time make sure there is enough for everyone to have plenty.

Jesus fixed the problem at the wedding by turning the water into wine. It was a fantastic miracle because now everyone could keep celebrating the wedding with the bride and groom and their families. Jesus wants people to enjoy life and celebrate it – after all he is the one who has given us life.

Questions

- How did this miracle show Jesus' disciples who he was?
- How might Jesus help you to celebrate good things at special times?
- How easy is it for you to be happy and celebrate with someone else when they have a birthday or win something?
- How might Jesus want us to help each other celebrate the good things that happen?

Remember, Jesus came to provide for us abundantly – and so he turned plenty of water into the very best wine for everyone to enjoy.

God loves us so much that there is plenty of love to spill over onto others, so we can celebrate with them joyfully from our hearts! The amazing thing about love is that it never runs out – the more you give away the more you have – and then you can give that away too. And it keeps on going and going and going... and never ends.

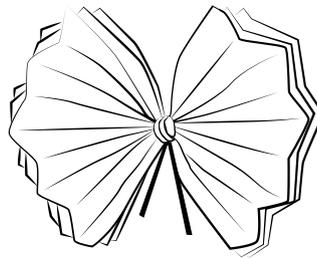
ACTIVITY

- Give everyone a tissue.
- Each write something they could do to help others celebrate. (Do this carefully so it doesn't rip).

“REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE, AND WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP.”

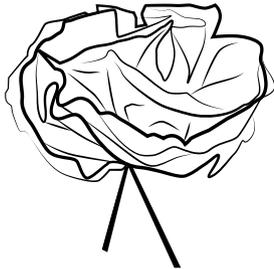
- ROMANS 12:15 -

- Now turn your tissues into carnation flowers: Fold it in half and cut along the fold line. Starting from the narrow end, concertina fold it like an accordion, 1cm for each fold. Wrap a tie or pipe cleaner around the middle, and hold onto this 'stem'. Begin to separate each tissue layer, pulling it up to the centre until all the 'petals' have been separated.



You can also watch "Make a carnation flower in less than 2 min" on youtu.be/ZRW0t3znmtw

- Place all the carnations in a vase to decorate the dinner table this week. Use them as a reminder of what you have learned.



PRAY

- Invite each person to say 'thank you' to God for something wonderful about your family that you can celebrate.

LIVE

Family traditions are the threads of life that help bind us together.

Establish a new tradition to celebrate one person in your family each week. They may be made the 'Person of the Week' and have special privileges like choosing the flavour of ice cream you buy or who sits in the front seat of the car.



OTHER IDEAS

- Instead of playing "duck, duck, goose" play "water, water, wine"
- As a family or group, memorise the verse: "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you." 1 Peter 5:7

Learn the verse by throwing a bean bag or ball round in a circle (you could do this outside), and have each person say the next word of the verse when they hold the bean bag. You can start by going around the circle consecutively. Then once you know the verse, try throwing it randomly!

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT SESSION...