

WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus gives us a taste of God's power.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Changes Water into Wine: John 2:1-11;
Psalm 34:8-9

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Echo" (Victory Kids Worship)
 - "O Taste and See" (Bethel Music Kids)
 - "Ask, Seek, Knock" (Hillsong Kids)
 - "You Change Me" (People of the Earth)
 - "You are My All in All" (Shout Praises Kids)

ACTIVITY | Believe It or Not

- Welcome, friends! I have to tell you about this really cool chain of museums that you can find all around the world called *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* It displays tons of odd, unusual, and bizarre art, animals, people, and places that might be hard to believe, but in fact, they are all real and true things!
- There are 31 of these museums, and today I've created a *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*-inspired pop-up museum right here!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play these videos: [Jumping On All Four Legs](#), [Ripley's Believe It or Not \(Contortionist\)](#) (suggested 1:01-1:27), and [The Princess of Etch A Sketch Art](#) (suggested 2:33-2:45).

❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider giving kids a few moments to come up with their unbelievable talents. Hold a short “Believe It or Not” talent show, where they can showcase what is special about them.

❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For friends that may have physical special needs, this could be a tough subject to tackle. Be uplifting and use encouraging language that celebrates differences.

- Here are some examples of people with some pretty crazy talents that *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* has found.
 - Ava Vogel can run and jump like a horse!
 - Jorge Ivan Latorre Robles' super elastic skin lets him fit inside a suitcase!
 - Jane Labowitch makes detailed art with an Etch A Sketch.
- At our museum, today's first exhibit features YOU! **What is the weirdest or most unbelievable thing you can do?** Show or tell us all about it!

ACTIVITY | Taste Exhibit

- You've just entered the taste exhibit! There are quite a few different ingredients to try here. The catch is . . . each tasting set will have four of the same ingredient and then ONE that is different. Everyone in the audience has to figure out who has the different one by studying their face.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have five volunteers at a time to come to the front. Give each of them a tiny sauce cup filled with tiny amounts of identical-looking ingredients, but ONE person will have something that's different from the rest. Have the volunteers use the tasting spoons to dip in their ingredient and have a taste. **Alternative option:** Play with different flavors of jelly beans. Show a few volunteers only the color, and they'll guess the flavor. If they're wrong, they get to eat it to find out what it is! (Note: Be aware of kids with allergies prior to picking volunteers.)

❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Consider turning this into a “smell exhibit” if you have kids with allergies.

QUESTION | Amazing Tricks

- **What's the most amazing trick you've ever seen?**
- **What amazed you about it?**
- **Why do people say that they “can't believe their eyes”?**

❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** To add to this question, pull up a few Youtube videos to watch together. ([Dude Perfect](#) Toy Trick Shots is a great option – they'll see more of this at a later module, too!)

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

BIBLE STORY | Jesus Changes Water into Wine

- Hi, everyone! Are you ready to experience the Bible story exhibit?! I sure am ready to guide you through it. Today's Bible story will be a living art gallery. You'll see what I mean.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Dress up as a museum guide again. For today's story, get three volunteers to play Jesus's mother, Jesus, and the master of the banquet. Have them holding the frames before you begin the story, or standing behind the frames if they are self-standing on a table. Have the chalice, jars, and water nearby, ready to be used. As you read John 2:1-11 aloud, prompt the subjects in each "painting" to move or make a specific expression.
- Look at these marvelous works of art! These are scenes from when Jesus was at a wedding with his mother and disciples.
- Something terrible happened though – they ran out of wine at the wedding. It was customary for the bride and groom to serve this drink at weddings, and to run out could be seen as rude!
- Everyone was panicked and didn't know what to do. But Mary knew exactly who to talk to. Jesus.
- Now, let's see how this story plays out as we study each scene.
 - [Read John 2:3-4. In the first frame, Mary holds the goblet upside down. Jesus shrugs.]
 - [Read John 2:7. Jesus points to the jars. Storyteller pours water into one of them.]
 - [Read John 2:8-9. Jesus points to the master, who is in the second frame. Storyteller pours a bit of water from the jar into the goblet, then brings it to master, who is positioned with cup at mouth.]
 - [Read John 2:10: Master holding cup away from mouth, giving a big smile and thumbs up if using self-standing frames.]
- Jesus's miracles are amazing . . . almost unbelievable. But, what Jesus did was very real and very powerful! The master of the banquet and all the wedding guests literally tasted the awesomeness of what Jesus just did!

BIG IDEA | Jesus gives us a taste of God's power.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite a volunteer to open the art tube and pull out the Big Idea butcher paper. Unroll and lay the paper on the floor. Let kids come up and paint the entire paper with watercolor paint to reveal the Big Idea. Since today's lesson emphasizes taste, try emphasizing the words "Jesus," "taste," and "God's power" as you say the Big Idea.
- God's power is so great that it can be hard to imagine how truly great it is! When Jesus was on earth, Jesus was filled with God's power and performed many amazing miracles that people got to witness. **Jesus gives us a taste of God's power!**

VIDEO | A Day at the Museum, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

VIDEO | "Dude Perfect: World Record Edition"

- Hit the lights because we just entered a video exhibition at the museum!
- What Jesus did was unbelievable – much like the things you see at the Ripley's Believe it or Not! museums. Other super cool things at these museums are stories of people who broke world records.
- Sit back and be wowed as we watch this video of some of the absurd records that a team of dudes has attempted to break through the years.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play [this video](#), or a portion of it.*
- They broke a lot of world records, but they would never be able to break Jesus's world record.
- "What?!" you might be wondering? "Jesus holds a world record?" Why, yes! Jesus holds many world records, and the one I'm thinking of now is that Jesus holds the world record for the most miracles ever performed. No one will ever break that record.
- But, guess what? Jesus never had to practice how to turn water into wine. All Jesus needed was God's power. How awesome is it that **Jesus gives us a taste of God's power!**

OBJECT LESSON | When Life Gives You . . . Water

- Who's ready for our next exhibit?! Jesus performed an amazing miracle in today's story. He turned water into a special drink for the party called wine. Believe it or not, I can do it, too! Okay, maybe I can't make wine. But would you settle for some pink lemonade?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pour the prepared glass of water into the prepared "lemonade" glass, and watch the water change to pink. **Alternative option:** Use a tiny drop of red food coloring in the "lemonade" glass instead of using chemicals for the experiment.*
- That was so cool to see the water change right before our eyes! But, I have to be honest with you. This was no miracle! This pink stuff isn't even actually pink lemonade. This was a science experiment, and the combination of these solutions just made the water turn a pink color. It wouldn't even be good to drink!
- Jesus actually changed water into wine . . . drinkable wine! Wine that the people tasted and said was the best wine. Jesus did this because Jesus was filled with the power of God. **Jesus gives us a taste of God's power** when Jesus performed miracles that humans cannot do.
- Like this science experiment, many times, we try to use our own knowledge and power to do or change things in our lives.
- But, God doesn't want you to handle everything on your own. God wants you to have a taste of God's power and learn to rely on God during tough situations and in your daily lives.

BIBLE | Psalm 34:8–9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Psalm 34:8–9 aloud for the kids while pairing the verses with the questions below. Have fun revealing the donut in a super suspenseful way! Exaggerate how delicious the donut looks and smells, maybe even bringing it very close to a few kids to smell it, too, before taking a bite.*
- **What does the author's use of the words "taste" and "see" that God is good tell us about experiencing God?** It's like the author is inviting us to come and have a closer relationship with God — to just enjoy God!
- **What do you think it means to take refuge in God?** We can trust in God to help us, protect us, and be there for us no matter what we are going through.
- **What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the word "fear"?** God doesn't want us to be scared and run away from God. Instead, to fear God means to have tons of respect for God and to worship God only because God is so great and powerful. When we do this, we depend on God to meet our needs so that we "lack nothing."
- These verses speak about having a very close and personal relationship with God!

- You could think about it this way.
 - I was reading reviews about a donut shop. Everyone said the donut with the white icing and multi-colored sprinkles was delicious. I was pretty convinced that it'd be good, but I couldn't be 100 percent sure. So, I thought I would bring this donut with me today to have a taste!
 - Wow! I have to say . . . in just the first bite, mmm, it is SO delicious! I am 100% convinced now that I've tasted and seen the donut for myself! This definitely made it more personal to me. Like, I had to have this close relationship with the donut in order to know for sure.
- It's the same with God! We can read about the things Jesus did and see that **Jesus gives us a taste of God's power**. Then we can take it a step further by having a closer relationship with God where we trust God with our circumstances, whether they are good or bad. God uses God's power for good, like protecting us, comforting us, and showing us how much God loves us.
- When we depend on God in these ways, it opens us up to experiencing God's power on a whole new level where we truly get to taste and see that God is good.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Whose Power?

- Many times, it's easy to forget that we have access to God's power, so we instead try to rely on our own power to change a situation in our lives.
- Maybe you know family members or friends who fight a lot, and you try to be the one to bring peace among them. Maybe you have a bad habit you're trying to break a lot, and you try to be the one to bring peace between them. Maybe you have a bad habit that you're trying to break.
- **In what ways do you rely on your own power to get you through tough situations?**
- **Jesus gives us a taste of God's power** and leaves us wanting more of God's power! God can do so much more in our lives than we could ever imagine.
- **What would it look like if you relied on God's power in those tough situations?**
- In this same way, **how can you give people a taste of God's power in how you live your life?**

❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Read Luke 23:34–39 together. Ask kids to reflect on the scripture by putting themselves in Jesus' shoes. How would they have responded? Would it have been similar to the way Jesus did?

RESPONSE | Gallery Walk

- In today's Bible story exhibit, we saw a little bit of living art. The term for that in French is called *tableau vivant*, where real people act like a still painting or sculpture. Check out how this one festival does "living art" in California!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) (or a part of it) of the "Pageant of the Masters." Pair kids up (or make larger groups) and after each group makes a poster, hang them up on a wall. Have kids do a gallery walk, where one person remains behind to explain their work, and the other person goes and visits the other "paintings." Let people swap roles every so often.

- If you think about a painting, it's really just a small snippet – a taste, if you will – of what is really happening. It's just one scene, but there's a whole story happening there!
- Jesus performed incredible miracles while on earth, but they were just a taste of everything God can do! That means God can do so much more than we have seen or we could even imagine. Isn't that wild?
- In your groups, create a painting that describes something you have seen God do, or a story you've heard of God's power. Get creative with how you communicate it – you are the artists!
- Afterward, you'll have a chance to visit the other masterpieces and hear how your fellow artists came up with their art.

MEMORY VERSE | Taste the Verse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut out the words of the memory verse. Get as many volunteers as there are cutouts. Tape the cutouts (face down) to the bottom of the outside of the clear cups (so the word shows from the inside of the cup, similar to [this](#)). Mix up the cups, then pour orange juice into each cup so it covers the word. Hand a cup to each volunteer. Have the volunteers drink their juice at the same time, look at what word their cup has, then line up in the order of the verse. (Note: Be aware of potential allergies. If repeating the activity with different volunteers, don't forget to use a new set of cups!)

❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If you're concerned about allergies, you can also have buckets ready for the liquid to be poured into instead of having kids drink anything.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for Jesus who gives us a taste of your power. We know that even when – especially when – we are weak, you are strong. We know there is so much more power to experience as we learn to trust in you! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What problem did the people at the wedding have?**
- **Who went to Jesus for help? Why do you think she did that?**
- **What miracle did Jesus perform?**
- **Read Psalm 34:8. What do you think it means to “taste and see that the Lord is good?”**
- **How do you know that the miracles Jesus did were only a “taste” of God’s power?**
- **Which display of God’s power in your own life or from stories you’ve heard was the most surprising to you? Why?**
- **What are some ways we can experience God’s power today?**

ACTIVITY | Mug Souvenir

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give out the donut holes. Then, give each kid a mug to decorate with the provided supplies. (Note: Be aware of those with allergies, and try to have an alternative available for them.)

❖ SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: Consider a gluten-free option.

- We have been talking about such tasty things today, I think we need to stop by the museum food court for a sweet treat on the way to the gift shop!
- Today, we are going to design our own mug souvenirs. You can draw a scene from today's Bible story, or write out the Big Idea or the memory verse!
- Whenever you take a sip of something tasty from your mug, remember that **Jesus gives us a taste of God's power.**

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Jeremiah29-13.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."**