

WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL 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

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Praise Gallery

- **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!](#)
 - "Every Move I Make" (CJ and Friends)
 - "Guess What" (Kidspring)
 - "God Loves Me Specially" (Orange Music)
 - "You Change Me" (People of the Earth)
 - "Dive In" (Kidspring)

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!* They display tons of cool, 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!
- *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* showcases people who have strange or special talents. I bet YOU have some special talents!
- At our museum, today's first exhibit features YOU! **What is the coolest, weirdest or most unbelievable thing you can do? What special talent do you have?** Show or tell us all about it!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Decorate a wall or a space in your room with bright colors. [Here](#) are some photos for inspiration. Use a [round rug](#) or other marker to create a stage space for preschoolers to share their talents.

✖ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers may need help identifying their special talents. Give them prompts like "I bet you are great at spinning in a circle" or "I bet you can stomp your feet really loud!"

ACTIVITY | Taste Exhibit

- You've just entered the taste exhibit! There are quite a few different ingredients to try here. The catch is . . . even though they all look the same, each tasting set will have two 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:** Get three adult volunteers at a time to come to the front. Give each of them a tiny sauce cup filled with small 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 it in their ingredient and have a taste. Let kids guess which volunteer had the different ingredient. (Volunteers can exaggerate their facial expressions to make preschoolers laugh!) **Alternative option:** Show kids the color of a jellybean, and invite them to guess the flavor. Have an adult volunteer taste it and tell the group what the flavor was.

✖ **TODDLER HACK:** Have kids taste foods that have different flavors (i.e., salty, sour, sweet, etc.) to introduce them to the concept of taste.

TEACHING TIME

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. It's been quite the bizarre day at the museum so far, and the Bible story exhibit will definitely not disappoint!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you tell everyone today's story from John 2:1-11, give everyone a cup. Fill a regular water pitcher with flavored water.
- In today's story, we are at a wedding with Jesus. Back then, you showed your guests that you were happy they came to the wedding by making sure they had enough to eat and drink. Grownups at parties like that often drank something called wine. But since we are kids, we'll call it party punch!
- So everyone was having a good time, but then . . . oh no! Something bad happened . . . the party ran out of party punch! The party was ruined!
- Everyone turn your cups upside down and look upset! Great job! That's how all the guests probably felt!
- The person in charge of the party didn't know what to do. But Mary, the mother of Jesus knew exactly what to do. She asked Jesus for help.
- Mary told everyone who was working at the wedding to do exactly what Jesus told them to do.

- **If you were Jesus, what would you have told them to do?**
- This is what Jesus told them to do. To fill the jars with water. Just water! Like this pitcher of water I have right here.
- You might be wondering how this will fix anything. We need party punch, not water!
- But the people did what they were told, and then Jesus had the person in charge of the party try a sip. You can try some, too. *[Pour a little flavored water into everyone's cups.]*
- Wait a minute . . . they filled the jars with water. But this doesn't taste like water! This tastes like . . . party punch!
- This was what we call a *miracle!* Jesus had done something impossible. He turned water into wine, er, party punch!

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 is so powerful but we have only seen just a tiny bit of everything God can do. Today's Big Idea says . . . **Jesus gives us a taste of God's power!**

VIDEO | A Day at the Museum, Episode 3

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

ACTIVITY | World Record Attempt

- Jesus did something AMAZING when he turned water into special party punch! What Jesus did was unbelievable, much like a lot of 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.
- World records are cool, odd, or amazing things people do. They did things like ran, grew their hair, or ate hot dogs the fastest, longest, or the best. Today YOU are going to try to beat a world record!
- A man named Pavol Durdik bounced a balloon on his head 275 times in a row! Do you think you can bounce a balloon on your head that many times? Let's try!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a balloon and have kids try to bounce balloons on their heads.*
 - ❖ **TODDLER HACK:** *Have toddlers toss the balloons around. Count to ten with them with each toss.*
- Great job, friends! Even if you didn't make it to 275 bounces you still showed strength and power! World records sometimes show us how strong and powerful people are.
- When Jesus turned the water into special party punch, **he gave us a taste of God's power.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for Jesus who shows us that you are powerful and can do amazing things! Help us to look for the many ways you show us your power! Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Wedding Feast

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Serve kids any snacks you want (maybe a few of kids' favorites) but set it up like a wedding buffet table. Have a volunteer dress up like a server (bow tie and vest) and serve the kids. You could choose to serve beverages in a plastic wine glasses to be fancy! Play wedding reception music and have kids dance around afterward.
- Today's Bible story took place at a wedding. Let's pretend we are at a wedding party right now!
- **What amazing thing did Jesus do at that wedding we learned about?**

ACTIVITY | Changing Water

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a small cup for each preschooler with half a single serving or less, depending on the size of your cups, of KOOL-AID powder. Have water available, whether in a pitcher or from a water fountain.
 - ✖ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of letting each toddler mix their own cup, have a leader demonstrate this for the whole class.
- Who's ready for our next exhibit?! Jesus performed an amazing miracle in today's lesson. **Do you remember what Jesus did?** That's right! He turned water into a super fancy party drink. Believe it or not, I can do it, too! Okay, maybe not exactly how Jesus did it. But we can all make some punch today!
- Go around the room and pour a little water into each preschooler's cup. Instruct them to mix it up with a plastic spoon.
- That was so cool to see the water change right before our eyes! **How do you think the master of the banquet felt when he learned Jesus turned water into a fancy drink?**
- Jesus actually changed water into a super fancy party drink. What we did today was just mix up some Kool-aid!
- 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.
- We may not be able to do miracles like Jesus but we can be brave and strong because we can trust in God's power!

ACTIVITY | Fill the Jars

- Today we heard an amazing story of Jesus's first miracle! **Who remembers what miracle Jesus performed?**
- That's right! Jesus turned plain water into a super fancy party punch! By performing this miracle, **Jesus gives us a taste of God's power.**
- Mary, Jesus's mom, told the servants at the wedding to do whatever Jesus said. **Do you remember what Jesus told the servants to do?**
- Good job! He asked them to fill jars with water. Today you are going to work together to fill jars with water. Here's how this game works.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the preschoolers into teams and give each team a large bowl of water, a spoon, and a *jar*. Set a timer for the amount of time you want the game to last. Each team player will take their turn spooning some water into the jars and then take the spoon back to the next player who will then go and spoon more water into the jar. Continue until the timer runs out.

❖ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of using a spoon, let toddlers use a large measuring cup.

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cue the *Wedding March* and other popular wedding songs. Explain the game Freeze Dance to your preschoolers. When the music is playing, preschoolers dance (or have them walk slowly down an aisle between sections of chairs). When the music is paused, preschoolers freeze and everyone recites the memory verse together. Do this as many times as time allows.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute this week's coloring page, along with crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as kids color!

ACTIVITY | Stack the Cups

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide preschoolers with a variety of paper and plastic cups. Invite them to stack them into towers and to reenact the wedding party with them.

ACTIVITY | Wedding Wear

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide preschoolers with a variety of fun and fancy play clothes (e.g. tulle skirts, fancy hats, bow ties, and button-up vests). Let them pretend to be guests at a wedding or another fancy party.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.