

Rhythms of Grace Worship • January Year 3

Theme: Wedding at Cana-
The First Miracle

Scripture: John 2:1-12

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: Long table to set as a banquet table or a long tablecloth to set on the floor. Have on hand to set the table some of the items here or add your own ideas: candle sticks, glasses, table cloth, artificial flowers and vase, dress up white dress and/or veil, boxes to wrapping and wrap paper, paper plates, plastic wine glasses, pitchers, plastic dinnerware, etc. There is also a placement guide or placemat in Resources for your use.

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, story cards, Set table or tablecloth on the floor to sit around, and Storytelling page.

Response Activities:

Noodle Necklaces-Yarn, elbow macaroni (can color with paint or purchase tri colored brand) Note: if you have children who will possibly eat the macaroni use packing peanuts with large plastic needles to thread the peanuts onto the yarn or colored beads.

Changing Water-water table or clear container, cups, pitchers, instant drink mix (grape or cherry), towels or paper towels.

Making Pitchers-model magic or clay, pictures of examples of pitchers from the internet.

Grape Juicing-grapes, sieve or cheese cloth, bowl, cups, plastic gloves, towels or paper towels.

Regathering: Instructions for game “What’s Changed” in Resources, *Jesu, Jesu*, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

Session Plan • Wedding at Cana-The First Miracle • Jan. Yr. 3

Gathering: Have the long table out with chairs around the table for all or a long table cloth with rug squares. Depending how elaborate and how many participants you have you can: set the table for a wedding feast, have children dress up in fancy clothes or just bride and groom, wrap boxes for wedding gifts, etc.

Storytelling: Have all sit at the table to tell the story. Use Bible, Jesus doll, and story cards with storytelling page.

Response Activities:

Noodle Necklaces- Have participants thread the noodles or beads on the yarn to make a necklace for the wedding. If using packing peanuts have plastic needles threaded for participants to push through the peanuts.

Changing Water-Place a small amount of instant drink mix in a clear cup or pitcher. Have participants pour water in and see the color change. Have towels on hand in case of spills.

Making Pitchers-Using pictures printed from the internet as guides have participants make pitchers out of clay or other modeling substance.

Grape Juicing-Wash grapes before the program. Put them in a sieve to dry. Place sieve over the bowl and if participants are comfortable (with washed hands) have them squeeze the juice into the bowl. Pour juice in cups for those wanting to try it. NOTE: Some may not want to touch the grapes. Offer the plastic gloves to use. Have towels on hand to wipe up.

Regathering: Play “What’s Changed”, see Resources for instructions. Singing *Jesus, Jesu*, participants bring Eucharistic elements to the Celebrant then sit in a circle around the Eucharistic table.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God
Gather our thoughts, oh God
Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*

Celebrant provides the blessing:

Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord*”

Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Storytelling • Wedding at Cana-The First Miracle• Jan. Yr. 3

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the storyteller. All sit around the set table or tablecloth to hear the story told using the 3 story cards listed.

1. No Wine, Mary looking on 2. Jesus makes wine from water 3. Bride, Groom, Mary, Party Goer

Our story today is from the Bible, (show the Bible) our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (show Jesus doll), God's son, and of how much God loves us (place hands over heart).

Today's story comes from the part of our Bible that tells about Jesus's life. It is called the New Testament. This story was written down by a friend, a disciple of Jesus, named John. This is the story of the first time Jesus did a miraculous act that showed others who is truly is.

When Jesus came back out of the desert after John the Baptist baptized him he set out to find his disciples, those special friends who traveled with him throughout his ministry.

Just after he had chosen them he, his mother, and the disciples were invited to a wedding in a village called Cana in Galilee. During the wedding banquet while they were all enjoying the festivities Jesus' mother was told that the wedding party was running out of wine for the guests (*show story card 1*). His mother, knowing that his ministry was just about to begin told Jesus. He said to her, "Why is this any of my concern? It isn't time for me to begin yet."

Well as mother's do she went ahead anyway and told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do. Now there happened to be 6 stone water pots that were placed near the festivities. The family used the pots to gather water for ceremonies. Each pot held 20-30 gallons. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the pots with water." The servants did as he instructed filling them to the top (*show story card 2*). Jesus then blessed the pots. He told the servants, "Now from the pots fill your pitchers and take them to the host of the party to approve." So they did what he instructed. Can you guess what happened? When the host tasted what the servants thought was water it was wine! (*show story card 3*) The host exclaimed to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with their best wines to impress the guests. But you've saved the best till now!" (the host didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew)

The servants, his mother and the disciples knew. Jesus' ministry here on earth had begun. This was his first miracle. It was a small snapshot of what was to happen all over the countryside very soon.

Amen!

(After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes on to explain the activities of the day)