

WEEK 1 LESSON GUIDE

Miracles

BIG IDEA

Jesus does everything out of love.

BIBLE

Jesus Turns Water into Wine:
John 2:1–12

ABOUT THIS WEEK

When you step into an aquarium, you realize how water is more than just something to drink—it can be a home, a place to eat, and so much more. This week, we'll look at the story of when Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding. Jesus showed the guests that water can be so much more than we think, and his miracle helps us see that **Jesus does everything out of love.**

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Sharks And Minnows

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you will need a wide open space with two clear boundary lines on either end of the play area. Choose one to two kids to be the sharks, and the rest of the kids will be minnows. The sharks stand in the middle of the room as the minnows try to run past them to the other side without getting tagged. Anyone who gets tagged becomes a shark, too. Minnows keep running back and forth until only one or two minnows remain. They can start out as sharks in the next round. Leaders can also start out as sharks to model safe tagging and respectful play.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Make [these shark hats](#) with your toddlers and teach them how to make shark fins by putting their hands together and on their heads. "Swim" around the room together like a family of sharks!*
- In the deep blue ocean, minnows must escape sharks to live, but sharks need to eat the minnows for food! Sharks, minnows, and all the other sea creatures do everything to survive. There's a reason for their behavior.
- In today's Bible story, we'll find out that there's one main reason Jesus does anything. It's love!

ACTIVITY | Act Like An Ocean Animal

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, have kids stand arms-width apart from each other as they will need space to move around. Call out the following ocean animals for them to act out with you.*
- **Who's ready to move like ocean animals?**
 - Leap like a dolphin.
 - Puff up like a blowfish.
 - Flap like a stingray.
 - Clap like a seal.
 - Stretch like a sea urchin.
 - Hide like a clownfish.
 - Wobble like a jellyfish.

- Slide like a sea snail.
- Hunt like a shark.
- Scuttle like a crab.
- **Isn't it amazing how God created ocean animals that look and act so differently?**
- Speaking of amazing, in today's Bible story, we are going to learn about something so cool that Jesus did... his first-ever miracle! A miracle is something that is surprising. (*Make a surprised face.*) It is also very hard to explain. (*Point to the temple, making a confused face.*)

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Jesus Turns Water into Wine (John 2:1–12)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below. Each time you say the word "miraculous" throughout the story, wave your hands and wiggle your fingers in an arch formation. Invite kids to join you.
- Well, hello there, friends! Today, we are going to hear about something **miraculous**.
- **Can you say that word and do the motion with me? Mir-a-cu-lous.**
 - A *miracle* is something that is surprising (*make a surprised face*) and very hard to explain (*point to the temple, making a confused face*).
 - Jesus did a lot of miracles. It was **miraculous!**
- Today's **miraculous** story starts with a big party. Jesus and his friends were at a wedding celebration.
 - **Raise your hand if you've been to a wedding.**
 - Me too! I love dancing at weddings (*do a few silly dance moves*), and I love eating all the fancy food. (*Pretend to gobble up food.*)
 - More than anything, a wedding is all about love, because two people choose to be together forever.
- But the **miraculous** thing Jesus did at this wedding showed so much love, too.
 - The wedding started running out of wine. Wine was a drink for grown-ups that was a big part of celebrations like weddings. If they ran out, the guests would not be happy with the bride and the groom and their families.
 - Jesus' mom told him they had no more wine. She knew Jesus could do something **miraculous**.
- So, Jesus chose to help. He loved his mother. He loved the people at the party. He loves everyone. He helped out so the celebration could continue.
 - Jesus told the servants to fill up six (*count to six with your fingers*) big jars with water. That's a lot of water!
 - But wait! Jesus, the wedding is running out of wine, not water!
- **How are all these big jars of water going to solve anything?** You guessed it—Jesus was about to do something **miraculous**.
 - The servants did as they were told. Somehow, these jars of water became known as the best wine ever. Jesus took care of the situation so that nobody had to worry. It showed his great, big love.
 - **Can you believe this miraculous happening was only Jesus' first miracle?**
- It's incredible that Jesus decided to show his love for the people who were celebrating a big day.

BIG IDEA | Jesus does everything out of love.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write this week's Big Idea on a large piece of paper cut out of a fish (use outlines [like these](#)). Tape or glue the fish onto a blue sheet or plastic tablecloth representing the ocean. Keep this ocean to add more fish in the coming weeks.
- Our fish friend here is going to help us learn the Big Idea together!

- **Jesus** (Sign language for "[Jesus](#).")
- **does everything** (Palms face up together in the middle, then spread out in either direction.)
- **out of love** (Cross both arms across your chest.)

VIDEO | *Miraculous*, Episode 1

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

ACTIVITY | Miracle Water

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, prepare clear plastic cups, a pitcher of water, red Kool-Aid or other fruit punch powder, and spoons for stirring. Beforehand, set out as many cups as there are kids and pour a little bit of red powder into each cup. Add water to each cup, and have kids stir their cups to make their celebration juice.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Consider providing less sugary fruit juice for toddlers. You can prepare two jugs, one with water and one with juice. Give them a little bit of each at a time to taste the difference!
- When we added the clear water from this pitcher into your cups, your drinks became red, just like what happened in today's Bible story. Okay, this isn't how Jesus did it. Jesus actually turned water into wine. It was a miracle!
- Jesus didn't *have* to help. But he chose to help out at the wedding. He showed his love for everyone, just like how he shows his love for everyone today.
- **Jesus does everything out of love.**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for your son, Jesus. Help us to do everything out of love. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Strawberry Fish

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut strawberries into a fish shape like [this](#). Take a silver dollar pancake or rice cracker and spread whipped cream on top. Place the strawberry fish on top of that. Use a tiny dollop of whipped cream for the fish's eye.
- **What color is the fish?** Red, just like the color of the drink in today's story.
- **What is your favorite ocean animal?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sit in a circle together. Pass around an ocean-themed stuffed animal so kids can take turns answering questions. The person holding the stuffed animal gets to speak.
 - **Where did Jesus' first miracle happen?** At a wedding.
 - **What did he turn water into?** Wine.
 - **Did Jesus show love by doing this miracle?** Yes!
 - **What do you do to show love to your family?**
 - **Let's say our Big Idea together: Jesus does everything out of love.**

ACTIVITY | Color-Changing Heart

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, give each kid a sky-blue paper plate. Show kids how to fold the plate in half to cut out a heart from the middle (you may have to draw guide lines for them). Afterward, provide a piece of

pink or red cellophane they can glue or tape behind the plate. Paste the heart that was cut out of the plate onto a square piece of paper and attach it to the paper plate using a brass fastener. Kids can swivel the paper with the heart to see it change colors behind the cellophane window of the plate. Help kids decorate the edges of the plate with heart stickers and the Big Idea! See the worked example [here](#).

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have kids use finger paints or dot markers on paper plates. Have them start with blue, then add red to show the colors mixing.

- Look how the heart changes color! It reminds us of what happened in today's Bible story when Jesus turned water into wine. Keep this heart close, and don't forget: **Jesus does everything out of love.**

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 77:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Baby Shark." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples."**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Water And Wine Memory

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw a blue water drop on each of eight index cards and a violet or magenta "wine" drop on another set of eight index cards. Shuffle them and spread them out upside down. The goal is for them to turn over two cards. If they find one water drop and one wine drop, it's a match. Keep playing until all matches are found.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Set two small pails of water and plastic scoops or ladles inside a larger bin (to hold the water). Have kids move water from one pail to the other to remind them of how Jesus told people to fill up jugs with water.

ACTIVITY | Ocean Sensory Bin

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill up a large shallow bin with toy sea animals, boats, nets, and other fun water play tools. You could either submerge all the objects in water or go for a drier option using blue kinetic sand or smooth aquarium pebbles. Whatever you choose, place the bin on top of a tarp or plastic tablecloth to make cleanup easier. You may choose to have this bin available every week this month to go with the theme.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Help toddlers develop their senses with the activities you do with them. Provide a corner with a variety of touch-and-feel books and create toddler-aged sensory bins for them to explore different textures like smooth, scratchy, sticky, and bumpy.