

General Church Education



FAMILY LESSON: JOHN 2

WATER INTO WINE

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Family Lesson 33-A

Water into Wine
John 2

FAMILY TALK:
TURNING WATER INTO WINE

Rev. W. Cairns Henderson

After the Lord had lived in this world for thirty years, He began to preach and teach. At the same time He began to perform miracles. We read in the Gospels about many of these miracles, and there are special reasons why the Lord came here on earth and performed them, and why they were written down in the Word.

Miracles are marvelous things which only GOD can do. In performing miracles, therefore, the Lord showed His twelve disciples, and others, that He was GOD, that He had power to do all good things, and that there was such power even in the words of His mouth and the touch of His hands. His miracles showed them through their eyes, as His words told them through their ears, that He was the GOD who made and gave life to all things, who delivered people out of the hands of evil spirits, who saved people from their sins, and who gave eternal life and happiness in heaven to those who loved Him and kept His words. They helped those who already believed in Him to believe even more – to be sure that everything He said was true. And they caused many who did not yet believe in Him to wonder who He could be, to think much about Him, to read the Word again, and to reflect on it.

That is one reason why the Lord came on earth, and performed the miracles about which we read in the Word. But there is also another reason. Many people think that the Lord performed miracles only when He was in the world, and that the age of miracles is now past. But this is not true. The Lord is still working miracles, but we cannot see them, because they are done in our minds, secretly, and we would therefore not know of them unless the Lord had provided a way by which we might learn about them. He did provide such a way by doing miracles here, for all the miracles which the Lord performed on earth teach us about the other miracles He is still working, but which we cannot see. Just as His parables were earthly stories with heavenly meanings, so were His miracles earthly deeds with heavenly meanings. These meanings the Lord has now explained in the Word He has given for the New Church; and if we learn them we can see that the Lord is doing for us now the same wonderful things He did when in this world.

We can see something of what this means from the first of all the miracles performed by the Lord. There was a marriage in Cana, a village near Nazareth about sixteen miles from the Sea of Galilee. Mary, the mother of the Lord, was at the marriage, and the Lord Himself, together with the men He had just called to be His disciples, was invited, and arrived later. At that time it was the custom of the Jews to celebrate a marriage with a feast which lasted for seven or eight days, and

at those feasts they always gave wine to their guests; buying the very best wine they could afford, and enough to provide all the guests with as much as they wanted. But for this feast the host had not bought enough wine. It would be a disgraceful thing if the guests found this out. They would think that the host had not shown the proper hospitality, and he would feel sad.

Mary knew the host well enough to learn about his difficulty before it became known to the other guests. She felt sorry for him and wished to spare him the pain of having his guests find out that there was no wine. So she told the Lord what had happened. He had not yet performed any miracles, but she believed that He could do wonderful things and hoped He might do something before the guests discovered what had happened. Of course the Lord knew that there was no wine, and knew that this had come about that He might perform a miracle, and so He began to show His power. For that reason He did not wish to perform the miracle until it was known that there was no wine. So He said to Mary, “**Mine hour is not yet come.**” And she said no more, but told the servants to do whatever He might tell them.

Outside of the house there were six large water pots of stone, each holding over twenty gallons of water, in which the guests might wash their hands before sitting down to the feast. The Lord told the servants to fill them to the brim with water, and when they had done so, He told them to pour out the water, and bear it to the governor of the feast. Nothing happened to the water that remained in the jars, but as the water that was drawn off was being poured out, the Lord turned it into noble wine. When he had tasted it, the governor of the feast was amazed and astonished, because it was a much better wine than had been given to the guests at the beginning of the feast, and he did not know whence it came. But the servants knew, and they told the guests what had happened.

Now what do you suppose the Lord does for us that is similar to this miracle of turning water into wine? It is this: when we go into the Lord's other world a marriage takes place in our minds. There the Lord makes us completely good, so that we can enter heaven, or allows us to become completely bad, so that we can enter hell. Our life on earth is a preparation for one or the other of these marriages, and as a part of our preparation we learn many things about the Lord and His kingdom. These things are put into our minds, which are like vessels, to be filled with knowledges, just as the water-pots were filled with water. Now the things we have only learned from the Word, that is, the things we can repeat, but which we neither love nor do, are of no use to us in the other world. But if we have loved the Lord and His Word, and kept His commandments – that is, invited the Lord to the marriage, and at the same time have filled our minds with knowledges from the Word – then, as we use them by living according to them, the Lord will change them into things that will bring us into heaven among the angels. *Amen.*



Water into Wine

John 2:1-11

LEVEL 1 – TURNING WATER INTO WINE

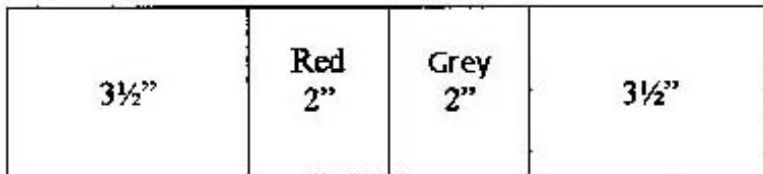
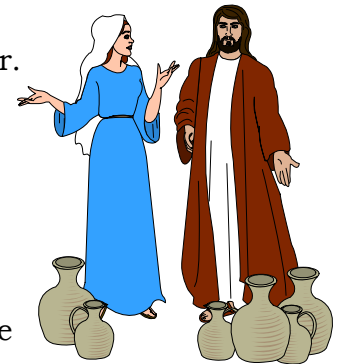
- Materials:**
- 1 strip white paper 3" x 11" for "pull through"
 - 1 piece (2" x 3") gray paper - for water
 - 1 piece (2" x 3") red paper - for wine
 - 1 strip clear contact paper - to laminate "pull through"

The Lord does His first miracle by turning water into wine

- Directions:** 1) Have your child color the picture of the Lord at the wedding feast at Cana. There are six jars made of stone.

- 2) Cut out water jar on dotted lines inside the jar.
- 3) Cut two slits (dotted lines).
- 4) Assemble "pull through".

Place the 2" x 3" gray paper and the 2" x 3" red paper side by side in the middle of the white strip.



- 5) Peel backing from contact paper.
Center contact over colored papers.

Be sure contact paper extends about 1" beyond the colored papers. Fold any excess contact paper to the back of the strip.

Insert completed "pull-through" and have fun!





Water into Wine

John 2

LEVEL 2 – WATER CHANGING INTO WINE



1. What did the servants put into the six stone water pots? _____
2. Who made water? _____
3. What did the servants take out of the pots? _____
4. Who changed the water into wine? _____
5. What is the changing of water into wine called? _____
6. Who can do miracles? _____
7. The pots were filled with water and wine.
The Lord says your mind is like a pot that you can fill with good things.
He wants you to fill your mind with special “water” and “wine”.
Where can you read the special things the Lord wants you to fill your mind with? _____

Note for parents: When we learn from the Word about the LORD and the good things He wants us to do, we are filling our minds with His truth. This is like the servants filling the pots with water. The more we read the Word and learn from it, the more the LORD can help us understand its use in our lives. This knowledge is like the miracle of changing water to wine.

There is a picture to color on the next page.



The Miracle at Cana – Water into Wine

Water into Wine
John 2
LEVEL 3 – A SECRET MESSAGE



Here is a “message” from the Gospel of John.

Numbers are given instead of the letters.

Put the correct letter below each set of numbers. Be careful!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

20 + 3	13 + 2	16 - 3	2 - 1	17 - 3		26 - 3	4 + 4	3 - 2	15 + 5
2 + 2	25 - 10	4 + 1	11 + 8	,	18 + 7	26 - 11	17 + 4	22 - 4	
16 - 13	8 + 7	6 + 8	10 - 7	19 - 14	9 + 9	7 + 7			
24 - 16	6 - 5	14 + 8	12 - 7		19 + 1	16 - 1		2 + 2	10 + 5
25 - 2	5 + 4	10 + 10	4 + 4		24 - 11	13 - 8 ?		10 + 3	17 + 8
4 + 4	10 + 5	24 - 3	9 + 9		16 - 8	20 - 19	13 + 6		
10 + 4	20 - 5	25 - 5		15 + 10	3 + 2	10 + 10			
2 + 1	13 + 2	6 + 7	4 + 1.						

Who said this? _____

Water into Wine

John 2

LEVEL 4 – THE FIRST MIRACLE

When the Lord came into the world, He performed many miracles, the first of which is the subject of this lesson.

THE LORD HAD TWO REASONS FOR DOING MIRACLES:

The first reason for miracles was for the people of that time.

The Lord needed to show his disciples and the other people who lived at the time of His life on earth, how just was His power — how different His teachings were from the teachings of the Scribes and Pharisees, whom the people had grown up admiring.

When they saw Jesus perform a miracle, they wanted to pay attention to Him and learn more from this miraculous teacher.

Do you remember the prophesy in Isaiah which foretold that the Lord would be called Wonderful?



The first miracle the Lord showed the people was at a marriage feast in Cana. He was just beginning His public ministry, and was not yet recognized as anything but a man by many— besides Mary and the disciples He had called.

All of them were invited to a marriage feast where there would be many more people whom He could begin to teach. Even Mary and the disciples did not yet understand that He was **GOD**, not just a special man. When Mary told Him about the lack of wine, His answer showed that He was not merely her son, but had **Divine** power.

Note the special parts of the story in this miracle:

The servants were told to take **stone** water jugs and fill them as **full** as possible with **water**.

When they **used** the water, it was not water but **wine**.

The leader of the feast said it was the **best** wine.

The second reason for miracles was for us.

In looking at the story, we can learn about the second reason the Lord performed miracles. That is to show everyone who reads the story what He can do miraculously in our lives.

When is our life like a marriage feast which has run out of wine?

This is a picture of our life when we want be good, but don't really know how.

Water and wine in our life

Water: To fill the stone water jugs to the brim with water means to learn as much as we can from the Word. Water is truth.

Wine: But all that learning is not satisfying and refreshing until we use it. so the water did not turn into wine until it was **served**.

- serving, or drawing out water, is like **using** the things we have learned.

Example:

You learn a truth:

One of the Ten Commandments teaches you not to steal.
That is "water" in your mind.

You need to **use** this truth.

Just knowing it is not enough:

You are at the check-out in a supermarket and want to pocket a candy bar. No one's looking. But you do not do it because you know the Lord says not to steal.

Then that "**water**" (the truth in your mind) becomes "**wine**" (the truth being *used* your life).



On page 3 there are some questions for you to answer.

*On pages 4 and 5 there is an activity to help you think about how you can **use** the Lord's teachings.*

Application #1

Try to answer these questions without looking up the answers. Then look them up to see if you were correct.

1. In what city did the first miracle take place? _____

2. What kind of celebration were they having? _____

3. How many pots were there? _____

4. What did the Lord tell the servants to do with the pots?

5. What happened when they drew out the water?

6. What did the leader of the feast say about the wine?

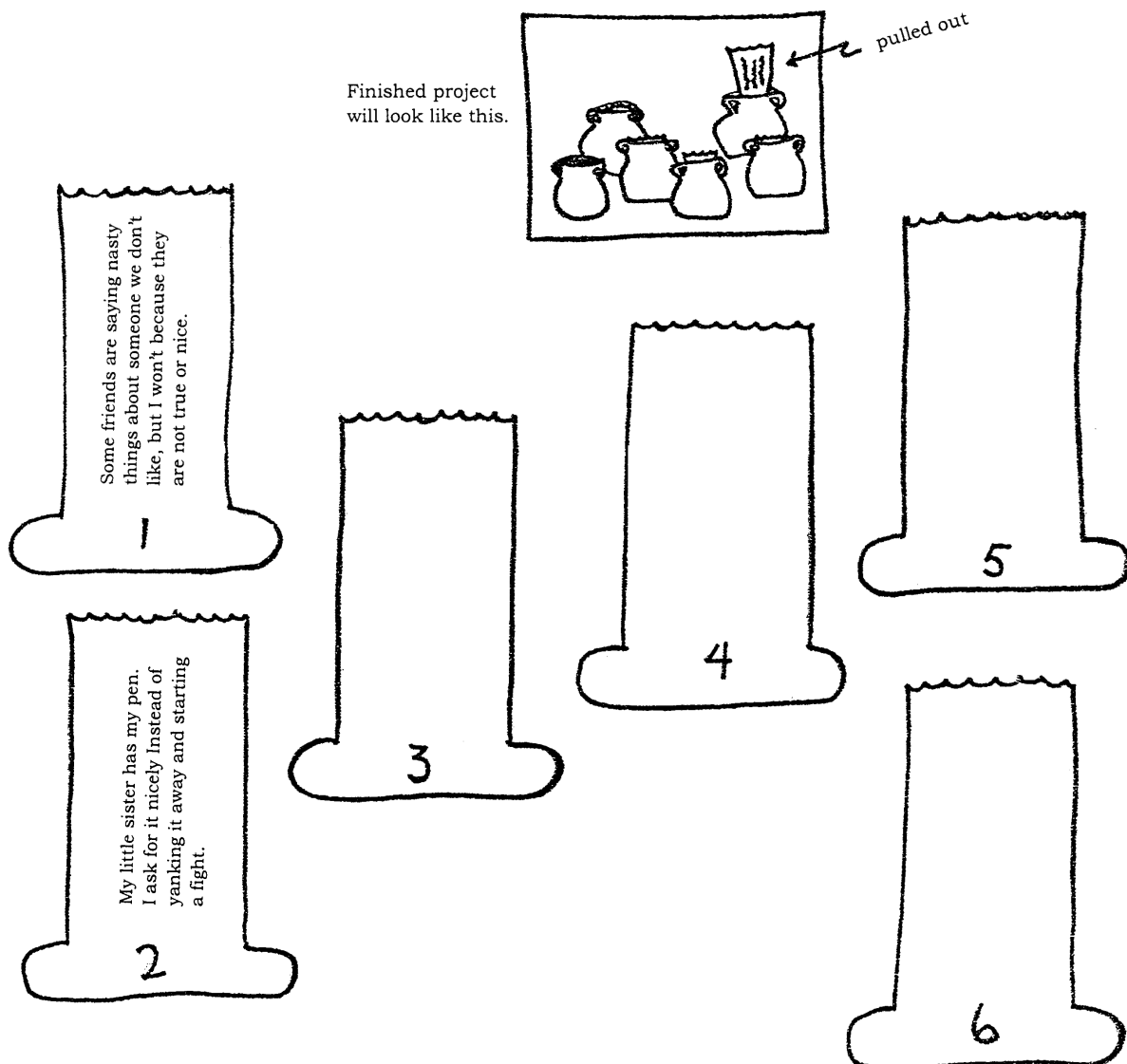
7. How does the Lord turn water to wine in your life?

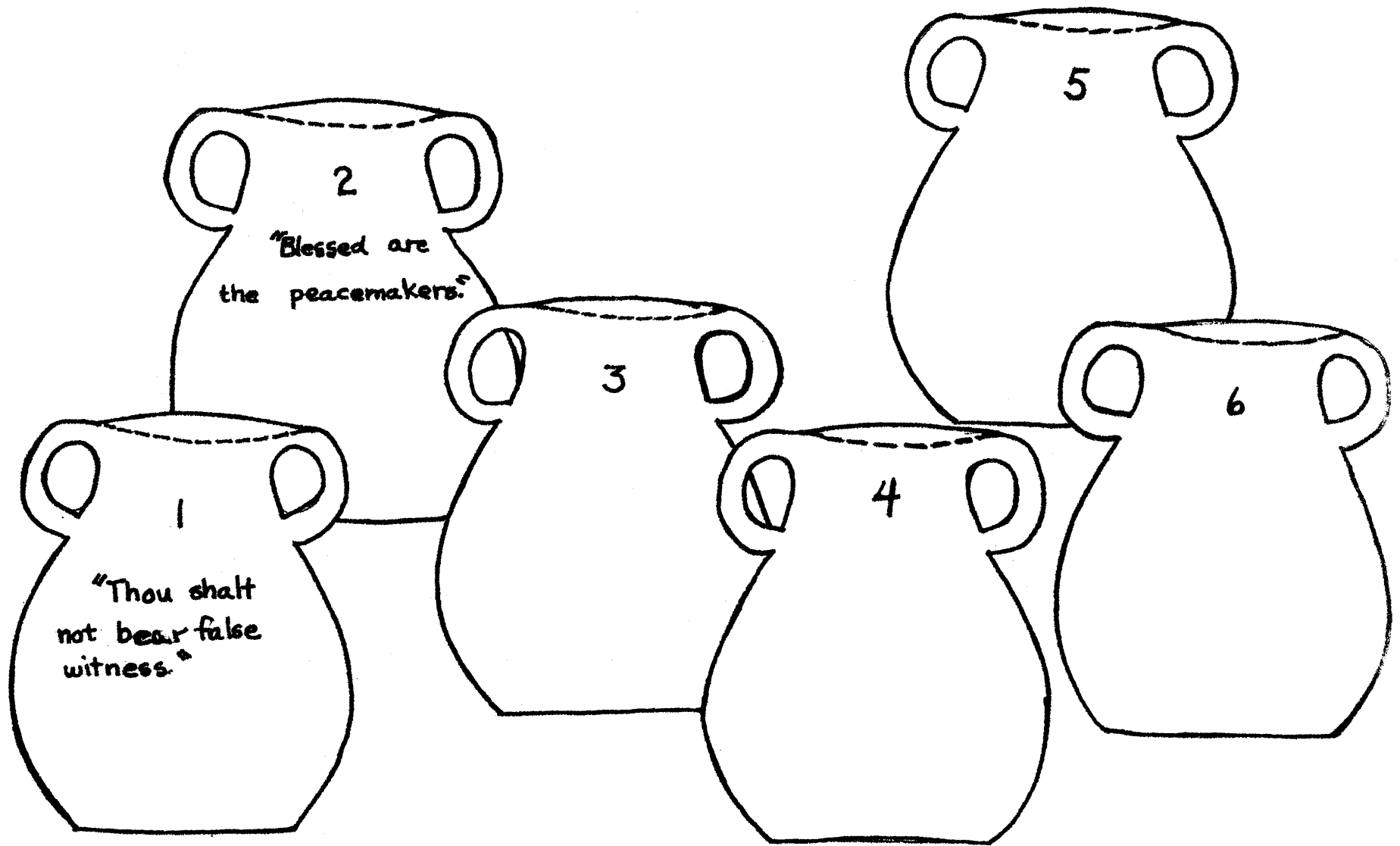
Application #2

Read the example on page 2 again. Think of some other examples of knowledge you have learned from the Word and how it can become “wine” by being “drawn out” in your life.

Use these examples to complete the project on page 5:

- a) Write lessons you have learned from the Word on the remaining four jugs on page 5.
- b) Then think of examples in your life where you might use those teachings. Write the examples on the slips of paper representing water turning to wine at the bottom of this page and cut them out.
- c) Cut a slit along the dotted line at the top of each jug. Insert the corresponding water slip from behind, so it can be “drawn out” as “wine,” showing how you can use teachings from the Word in your life.





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John 2
LEVEL 5 – COMPARING MIRACLES



You are going to read about two miracles and fill in a Venn diagram to compare and contrast them.

While you are reading, be noticing details that are different in each story, and details that are the same in both stories.

- 1) Read again the miracle of Water into Wine in John 2.
- 2) Read the miracle of Feeding the Five Thousand in Matthew 14:13-21.
- 3) Now you are ready to fill in the Venn diagram on page 2.

Some details for you to notice:

- Who are the characters in each story?
- Where do the stories take place?
- What time of day did each story take place?
- What was the problem in each story?
- How did the disciples react in each story?
- What did the Lord do to solve the problems?
- What were the Lord's actual words in each story?
- What objects or things were mentioned in each story?
- Find out what these things represented.
- What was the Lord teaching about our lives in each story

Venn Diagram to Compare and Contrast the Stories Water into Wine and Feeding the Five Thousand

