

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
19 January, 2025
John 2:1-11

Catechist Background

The wedding feast at Cana marks the first of the seven 'signs' noted in John's Gospel to show who Jesus really was, or, to use John's words, to 'reveal his glory.' It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, although Jesus does seem reluctant to act at first and only does so at his mother's request.

This passage is however much more than just a miracle story; Jesus arranges for huge jars used for ritual washing are filled with fresh water, which he then turns into high-quality wine. In this way we can see that private Jewish ritual has now been superseded by belief in Jesus. The enormity of the scale of this miracle points to the generous overabundance of God – God who loved us so much that God became human, lived with us, taught us, suffered and died and then came back to life in order to restore us to God fully. Like last week's baptism, this miracle at Cana points to a new era, the messianic age – the age of the Messiah (God's chosen one), and offers us an example of Christian life in Mary who in this passage tells the servants to follow Jesus' instructions.

Setting the Scene

You may wish to remind the children of last week's Gospel reading, and the baptism of Jesus.

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gave us signs of the greatness of God, Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You lead us into truth, Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You show us your glory Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

We Pray (1)

Lord, we know you are looking after us. Help us to trust you and to recognise when you give us so many good things. Amen.

Gospel Introduction

You may need to remind the children that we do not have the same relationship with wine as the people who would have been present at this Jewish wedding at the time of Jesus. Children today, if they have tasted it, usually do not like wine, but at the time of Jesus they would have been accustomed to drinking it mixed with fruit juice or water.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Point out that Jesus, his friends and his mother were at a wedding feast—a party.
- When the hosts run out of wine, what does Mary, Jesus's mother, do? Who does she ask to help?
- Does Jesus want to get involved? Why does he?
 - Mary doesn't force Jesus to act. He does so (according to John) to glorify God.
- How does it feel when someone tells us that we really *can* and *should* do something that we then discover we can do? (For example, riding a bike without stabilisers, or swimming or something else which makes us nervous?)

Response

Last week we were reminded to follow Jesus through our baptism by doing things that please God. This week we are challenged to see how Jesus can make things new, different and better.

- Get each of the children to pour a small amount of water into a jar. If too many children are present, ask for a volunteer to do this on behalf of everyone else;
- Ask the children to crouch down and pretend they are the water in the jar;
- Ask them to think about how Jesus can change them, like the water, into something better and more miraculous, which will show everyone how wonderful God is;
- As they stand up, remind them that the wine didn't just stay in the jars. Instead the people at the wedding drank it and really enjoyed it;
- We, too, are called to use our goodness to benefit others.

We Believe

Relating the Creed to what you have shared with the children, ask these questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God, the Father who made the world and everything in it?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, who lived among people just like us?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us to follow in Jesus' footsteps?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying, 'Jesus, you showed that you cared for the people at the wedding in Cana, and so we say...'

Leader: We pray for the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, married people, and single people in the church, that we may follow in Christ's footsteps. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the governments of the world, that they will rule wisely. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people who don't have enough of things that they need to live. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for us and for our families. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us to be changed by you, and to live as people filled with your love. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

