

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
16 January, 2022
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. It is much more than a miracle story; Jesus has jars used for ritual washing filled with fresh water, which he turns into high-quality wine. This denotes the fact that private Jewish ritual has been superseded by belief in Jesus, and the enormity of the scale of the miracle points to the generous overabundance of God. Like last week's baptism, this miracle points to a new era, the messianic age.

Setting the Scene

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

We Say Sorry

We Say Sorry

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

You lead us into truth, Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

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 Intro

You may need to be sensitive to the fact that we do not have the same relationship with wine as the people who would have been present at a first-century Jewish wedding. Children, if they have tasted it, usually do not like wine.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Point out that Jesus and his friends and mother were at a wedding feast—a party.
- When the hosts run out of wine, Jesus' mother tells him to do something about it, and receives a somewhat frosty reply. How does it feel when someone tells us that we really *can* and *should* do something that we then discover we can do—perhaps like riding a bike without stabilisers, or something else we might be nervous about?

- Jesus doesn't follow his mother's instructions because *she* is powerful; he performs the sign to glorify God.

Response

Last week we were reminded to follow Jesus through our baptism by doing things that are pleasing to God; this week we are challenged to see how Jesus can make things new and 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, to show God's glory. As they stand up, remind them that the wine didn't just stay in the jars to look at, it was enjoyed by all the people at the wedding. We, too, are called to use our goodness to benefit others.

We Believe

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of 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, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We trust that God will look after us just as he looked after the people at the wedding feast, and so we pray...'

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 and well. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all people who are running out 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 changed for the better by your love. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

