

WATER CHANGED TO WINE

John 2:1-10

STRUCTURE

Key-person: Jesus

Key-location: Wedding in Cana in Galilee

Key-repetitions:

- Wine: Wine was gone, Jesus' mother said, "They have no more wine" (Jn 2:3); water had become wine (Jn 2:9); finest wine, cheap wine, best wine (Jn 2:10).
- Water: water jars (Jn 2:6); servants filled jars with water (Jn 2:7); water became wine (Jn 2:9); servants who had poured the water knew what had happened (Jn 2:9).
- Orders: Jesus' mother told servants to obey Jesus (Jn 2:5); Jesus ordered the servants to fill jars with water (Jn 2:7) and take some water to the master in charge (Jn 2:8).

Key-attitudes:

- Joy at wedding celebration.
- Mary's concern when the wine was gone.
- Jesus' sternness when he told Mary that his time hadn't yet come.
- Mary's submissive confidence in Jesus when she told the servants to obey Jesus.
- Jesus' confidence when he gave orders to the servants.
- Master in charge's surprise when he tasted the water that had become wine.
- Disciples' trust in Jesus.

Initial-situation:

Jesus began the first year of his ministry when John the Baptist was famous. Crowds went to hear John the Baptist and to be baptized by him. John the Baptist was the messenger preparing the people to receive the Messiah.

Jesus began his public ministry when he was baptized in the Jordan River. Jesus then went to desert wastelands where he resisted temptations from Satan.

Jesus returned to the Jordan River. John the Baptist saw Jesus and shouted, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" The next day John told two of his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God. The two followed Jesus and spent the rest of that day with him. Andrew brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. Philip brought his friend Nathanael to Jesus. The four took a trip with Jesus.

Initial-problem:

Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

Final-situation:

Jesus performed the first of his miraculous signs at Cana in Galilee, by transforming water into wine. Jesus revealed the first glimpse of his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

BIBLE STORY

Three days after Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael started on a trip with Jesus, a wedding took place in the town of Cana in Galilee.

Jesus' mother was present at the wedding feast. Jesus and his disciples were also invited, and attended the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

Jesus replied, "Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time hasn't yet come."

Jesus' mother told the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you."

Six stone water jars were there, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing themselves in the way that their religion said they must. (*The Jews followed a ritual to wash themselves before eating, before worshiping, and at other special times.*) Each jar held from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the jars with water." The servants filled the jars to the brim. Then Jesus ordered the servants, "Pour some out and take it to the master in charge of the feast."

The master in charge of the feast tasted the water that had become wine. The master in charge did not realize where the wine came from, but the servants who had poured the water knew. The master in charge of the banquet called the bridegroom and said, "Everyone begins with their finest wine and, after the guests drink a lot, they serve the cheap wine. But you saved the best wine until now" (Jn 2:1-10).

Jesus performed this, his first miracle, at Cana in Galilee. Jesus revealed the first glimpse of his glory, and his disciples believed in him (Jn 2:11).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

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| 1. What catches your attention in the story? | 5. How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face? | 8. What does the story tell about God? |

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How did Jesus transform water into wine?
- In your life, is there an area where you have run out of wine (zest for life)? If so, feel free to share your experience with the group.
- What happened when Mary, mother of Jesus, tried to give orders to Jesus?

4. What happened when the servants were told to obey Jesus?
5. How did the disciples react to Jesus transforming water into wine?
6. What helped you put your faith in Jesus?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Social occasions are important to God.** Jesus was on a mission to save the world; yet he took time to be a social man. The social Jesus was at the wedding party (Jn 2:1-12). Jesus valued social occasions because they involved people, and Jesus came to be with people.
2. **Transformation occurs when Jesus gives orders; however, he doesn't act when he is ordered.** When Mary tried to give orders to Jesus, he did not act (Jn 2:3-4). When Mary told the servants to obey Jesus (Jn 2:5), Jesus transformed water into wine (Jn 2: 6-9).
3. **Jesus' presence in a home does not prevent problems in the home.** Jesus was present at the wedding and the celebration had a shortage of wine (Jn 2:3). The shortage of wine would have brought social shame on the couple.
4. **Jesus only solves problems in the home when he gives the orders.** Jesus was only invited to be a guest at the wedding. The master in charge of the feast was the one who gave orders. Until Jesus received the right to give orders, he didn't solve the problem at the wedding (Jn 2:1-11).

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Pantomime Retelling of the Story:

The storyteller tells the story one time. Then he invites a listener to pantomime the story as he retells the story.