



## OVERVIEW SECTION

### How to Read This Lesson Plan

The **Overview Section** is the foundation of this lesson plan. The questions and activities for the class that you will be teaching on Sunday morning have been based (sometimes loosely) upon what you read in this section. The **Overview Section** is composed of five components (each component is underlined in the lesson plan):

**How to Read This Lesson Plan** (defines all components of the lesson plan)

**Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation** (a reminder of why we do this)

**Scripture(s) for the Session** (a reminder that the scripture is to be read in every class)

**Key Verses & Theology** (background for teachers to ponder)

**Themes to Focus on from the Scripture** (the ideas that the session's lessons are based on)

The actual lesson is found in the second section, **The Sunday Morning Experience Section**. Think of this section as the step-by-step instruction guide to your Sunday morning teaching experience. There are four components to this section (again, each component is underlined in the actual lesson plan):

**Preparation** (including supplies needed)

**Classroom Statement** (a brief explanation of what will be taught/happening in the classroom)

**Step-by-step process of the lesson** (including the scripture to be read)

**Suggested variations for age groups** (Self-explanatory but not always applicable)

We encourage you to read the rest of this **Overview Section** before reading the **Sunday Morning Experience Section**.

### Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation

The purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation is, with God's help and in community, to hear and interact with the stories of our faith tradition, to pray, worship and play together, and to equip and support the building of relationships with God and with each other.

### Scripture(s) for the Session: John 2:1-11

*Please READ this aloud in every class you teach.* The actual words to the scripture can be found in **The Sunday Morning Experience Section: Step-by-Step process of the lesson**. When reading to the class, please read it from the lesson plan (not an actual Bible) as the wording of the scripture has been modified to help clarify some language issues.

**Key Verses & Theology:** These are provided to help the teachers think about and build a framework for understanding the story to help in answering some of the questions that the students might raise in class.

*Jesus said to Mary, "...My hour has not yet come."* <sup>5</sup>*His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."* There is the phrase, "All in God's Time" that is often used to encourage ourselves and others to stick in there and not give up and to persevere. But what this phrase does not counsel us and others to do is what Mary does in this verse: As we wait on God, we are to prepare to listen and to act. Mary is told, "My hour has not yet come," but this does not stop Mary from preparing the servants to "Do whatever [Jesus] tells you." Preparation is crucial when choosing to follow Jesus. All four gospels start with John the Baptist who prepares the way for Jesus. And just like when going on a trip, there has to be planning as you await the time when you eventually travel. So it is with Jesus. This passage reminds us that "All in God's time" does not absolve us of responsibility or action.

<sup>7</sup>*Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.* When we do prepare as we wait for God and God's time, the temptation might be to prepare on our own, in our own way. But if we do that, then we might miss what we're supposed to be doing as we wait. The servants in this passage do exactly as Jesus says. They aren't busy serving other people, they aren't arguing with Jesus, nor are they out on a coffee or smoke break. They are attentive to what they've been told, to do exactly as Jesus said to do. Because they remained diligent to what was asked of them, that then makes it possible for what comes next. Also, more of a sidenote, though its an important one: Jesus needed help with this miracle. If the servants are unwilling or disobedient, this whole story doesn't happen.

<sup>10</sup>*"Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."* "Good things come to those who wait," right? But how is it that we wait upon the Lord? By being attentive, patient and obedient. When we do that, then we become part of something much bigger than can help large groups of people. Because of Jesus, Mary and a few servants, the entire gathering at the wedding party got to experience a fullness and goodness of life that otherwise would not have been experienced. Are all of Jesus' miracles about something like this? For the good of the greater? Yes. Because every time one person chooses to be intentional about paying attention to God through Jesus, that can easily change the surrounding environment.

**Themes to Focus on from the Scripture:** Themes are provided to help teachers understand the teaching of the *session* (not necessarily the class). Sometimes an activity in one class may not match up with any of the themes.

**Transforming Chaos into Life** – as has been a recurring theme in this year's rotation, water is a symbol of chaos. Jonah got tossed about in it, and Jesus walked above it. Now we have a story where Jesus, as his first miracle in John, changes chaos into wine. Wine is not for 1<sup>st</sup> century citizens like it is for us now. Wine in the first century was a lifeline, it was plumbing. It was like tap water. The vinegar in the wine kept the water from going bad. This meant the water, when treated with the

wine/vinegar, could be traveled/carried for much longer times and therefore greater distances. Good wine meant that the vinegar/alcohol percentage was higher, which again meant that the water mixed in with it would stay “good” for longer. Not only did Jesus announce his ministry by saying “I’m here to teach and show and lead you from chaos to life” but then showed what he meant by performing this miracle that symbolizes the idea that when we follow and listen to Jesus, then we experience chaos being turned into life.

**Waiting** – Holding still, being still, ceasing what we want to do or even what we think we should be doing and waiting on God is a much more difficult thing to do than the phrase suggests. It’s hard to be still. But if we can’t focus on what God is calling us to do when we are still, then how are we EVER going to know what God is calling us to do when we are busy? Just like in any relationship, in order to listen, we have to give our whole attention to the person talking. When we don’t, miscommunication and mistakes and arguments break out. Waiting is a primary step in listening.

**Preparing** – When we wait, and then we understand that there is something that we are to do, often times the hardest part is wanting to know why. Why are we doing this thing? What are we preparing for? We want to know the answers, because then we can decide whether or not the thing we’re supposed to do is worth doing or not. But like the servants in this story, what will help is not asking questions, but trusting that God’s way is better than our way. If we do what we understand we are being called to do, then the rest will be revealed to us as we continue in our preparation and obedience. The obedience needed for preparation is part of the preparation, because when we see the results, it helps us to trust more the next time around, and more trust means more obedience which means we’ll most likely be called to do a harder/more complex task the next time.



---

## THE SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE SECTION

### Preparation

- Print out this lesson plan and bring it with you on the Sunday Mornings you are teaching
- Arrive at pre-arranged time to join other teachers, shepherds and staff for an opening prayer.
- Supplies Needed: bingo cards (see last page for how to make these), bingo markers, story to read, costume to wear

### Classroom Statement

This class consists of telling the story of Jesus turning water into wine from the perspective of the bride on that day. During the listening to the story, the class will play a bingo word game. Finally, the class will do a drama activity where as a group, they use their bodies to make shapes from the story.

### Step-by-Step Process of Lesson

Shepherd comes in with students

**SHEPHERD ASKS** "Question of the Day."

**INTRODUCE yourself**

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_ and I want you call me (tell the students how they may address you).

**PRAY** (Short and simple is perfect)

God, thank you for this day and for each other. We need your help. Help us to learn about you this day. Amen.

**TELL**

- I'm going to read you a story that's similar to the scripture story of Jesus turning water into wine (John 2:1-11).
- While I'm doing that, I want you to listen very closely to the story
- One reason you'll want to listen closely is because if you hear certain words, then you can mark those words on your bingo card that I'm passing out to you.
- (pass out Bingo cards and markers)
- You'll notice some of the words are repeated on your bingo card, like the word Mary.
- So if you hear the word Mary, you can take a bingo marker and put it on ONE Mary.

- If you hear the word Mary again, then you can take a bingo marker and put it on one OTHER Mary.
- But you can't cover two Mary's if you only hear the word Mary once.
- If you get five bingo markers in a straight line (up, down or diagonal), then you can call out "Bingo!"
- If you get bingo, call out "Bingo!" and then keep listening and try to fill up your WHOLE card with bingo markers, ok?
- When someone does get bingo, the rest of us can keep going, trying to get bingo.

### **DO Storytelling and Bingo**

There's a story my husband tells about our wedding day party. I did not see this story happen. And I sometimes think he is making up the story. I have asked other people to see if they had heard or seen something like what my husband describes. Everyone says that's how it happened. But I am suspicious, and sometimes think that my husband is simply trying to make me believe something that just is not true in order to make me feel foolish.

But over the years, I've come to believe that whether or not the story happened is not very important. I've also come to believe that what the story is trying to show *is* important. So I listen every time my husband tells the story. And I ask you to listen to do the same as I tell it to you.

My husband and I were married on a warm day. The sky was blue that day and there were fluffy clouds that slowly shifted into different shapes, one looked like a cow, another like a house, one even looked like two birds flying away from each other.

All our friends and family came to town. There were so many people that they had to stay with neighbors. When our wedding party happened, it was like the whole town was celebrating. It was pretty amazing.

During our wedding party I danced and talked and ate and danced some more. Everyone wanted to talk to me and say hello to me. The party went on and on. And then it was done. This was my experience of our wedding party. My husband says, though, that near the end of the party, we had run out of wine.

This is a big deal! Running out of wine isn't just embarrassing, it is even a little bit dangerous! Water is not safe to drink where we live and it takes quite some time to make water safe for drinking. Also, no matter how much we prepare the water, it does not keep very well when we travel. But the alcohol in wine keeps it from going bad when we travel. So that's why wine is so important. With no wine, we would have to send our guests away without helping to provide for their traveling needs. And that's just rude!

My husband says that he and his father were ashamed and in a state of panic, not knowing what to do or where to get wine for their guests, when some servants came and stood before them and said they had some water for the chief steward to taste. Both my husband and his dad were annoyed and frustrated with this request. They didn't need water, they needed wine! And they told the servants

this in very loud and angry ways. The servants bowed their heads, but they did not leave or apologize. Instead they said they were specifically told by a guest to ask the chief steward to taste this particular water that was in six huge water jars.

My husband and his father though frustrated were also impressed at the stubbornness of the servants and called for the chief steward to taste the water. When the chief steward did so, he yelled with joy and said, "This is the best wine I have ever tasted! This is high quality stuff! Where did it come from? And why have we been saving it for last? Let's go serve this now!"

My husband and his father were relieved and made sure enough wine was kept in store for the guests to take with them on their journey home. But that much good wine was more than a king could afford and they had no idea where it had come from! When they asked the servants where the wine came from, they told him that a crazy lady named Mary had come up to them and said that *no matter what they did*, if her son Jesus told them to do something, they HAD to do it. So when this man Jesus did come up to them and asked them to fill six large jars (each jar was as large as a 12 year old child!) with water, they did so. Then the man told the servants to take the water to the chief steward so that he could taste it. The servants did not want to do this because their boss, the chief steward, didn't want to be bothered with tasting dirty water. But the crazy lady, Mary, was standing behind her son Jesus and was nodding her head and kept pointing at the tent where the Chief Steward usually stayed. And so the servants did as they were told, but they were afraid because they thought they were going to get into some serious trouble. But then when the Chief Steward tasted the water, it wasn't water at all but wine. That's all the servants could share. They didn't know how the water turned into wine.

I've asked around and I've discovered that this man who told the servants what to do is Jesus and that he is a rabbi, a teacher. Our people understand water to be a symbol of chaos. This Rabbi Jesus changed chaos into a life-giving drink at MY wedding. I cannot forget that my marriage started with chaos being turned into life, even if I didn't know what had happened until later. When this Jesus is nearby, I go listen to him teach. I want less chaos in my life and more of God in my life.

### **ASK**

- What is water a symbol of? (chaos)
- Why was it important for there to be wine? (because wine doesn't go bad like water does when the people traveled; wine was safe to drink)
- Do you think the servants did a hard thing by bringing dirty water to their boss?
- Because the servants listened to Mary and to Jesus, what happened for everyone? (everyone got wine).

### **TELL**

- Remember how the character says there were clouds on her wedding day that shifted into different shapes? That's what we're going to do now.
- As a class and with our bodies, we're going to make some shapes that show up in the story.
- We're going to do this by getting into a circle and holding hands (or elbows or whatever works – but everyone has to stay connected)

- Then I'm going to call out something from the story that we then need to make a picture of with our bodies.

### DO Activity

- So let's practice with something easy, something that wasn't even in the story.
- Let's make a...square!
- Now, let's make one of the jars that the water was in
- Now, what do you think chaos would look like?
- In the story, the woman said the clouds shifted into different shapes, let's try to make some of those shapes:
- A house
- A cow
- If there's time, ask for suggestions from the class

### CLEAN UP

### DISMISS FOR SINGING

For bingo cards, I used the website: <http://print-bingo.com/bingo-cards-custom.php>

### Words used on Bingo Word List

best	Chief Steward	wedding
*Teacher Coughs*	Servants	Chief Steward
FREE BINGO SPACE!	*Someone laughs*	best
Jars	Jesus	Jars
Jesus	*Teacher says shh*	Wine
Servants	Kids listening to teacher	FREE BINGO SPACE!
Mary	wedding	Chaos
Water	*someone sneezes*	
Wine	Mary	

### **For Reference:** John 2:1-11

2On the third day of the week, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 3Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 4When the wine at the wedding ran out, Mary, Jesus' mother, said to Jesus, "They have no wine." 5Jesus said to her, "Mom, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 6His mother then went to the servants and told them, "Do whatever my son tells you to do." 7There were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. The jars were as tall as a 12 year old child! 8Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And so the servants filled the jars up to the brim. 9Jesus then said to the servants, "Now take some of the water out of the jars, and take it to the chief steward." So the servants took it to the chief steward. 10When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first,

and then the inferior wine after the guests have become satisfied and less attentive. But you have kept the best wine until now." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.