



A Workshop Rotation Model Lesson Plan from [rfour.org](http://rfour.org)

## Water into Wine | John 2:1-11

Season 1.Session 5: Science, Arts & Crafts, Storytelling

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### 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. However, feel free to print out the scripture and place it IN a Bible, so that there is a visual connection between the Bible and the story.

**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.



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### 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: Paper plates, straws, shaving cream, food coloring, white and yellow cardstock, scissors that make zigzag cuts, cardboard squares and colored pencils. Also, the three pictures to be used during the demonstration.

#### **Classroom Statement**

This Arts & Crafts lesson consists of reading the John 2:1-11 story to the class, demonstrating one way (in a craft-y/writing sort of way) how water might be changed into wine and the main art/craft of the lesson is creating a party invitation with colored pencils, smocks, scissors, card stock paper, shaving cream and food coloring.

#### **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**

- The story we're going to read today is a story of Jesus and his mother being at a party, a wedding.
- But there's a problem.
- As I tell you the story, listen for what the problem is and how that problem is addressed.

**READ** John 2:1-11

<sup>2</sup>On the third day of the week, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>3</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine at the wedding

ran out, Mary, Jesus' mother, said to Jesus, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mom, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother then went to the servants and told them, "Do whatever my son tells you to do." <sup>6</sup>There 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! <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And so the servants filled the jars up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>Jesus 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. <sup>9</sup>When 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 <sup>10</sup>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.

### ASK

- So what was the problem? (they ran out of wine)
- Why do you think this was a problem? (expected answers: because people liked wine; they expected/thought they were supposed to have wine at parties)
- Does Jesus seem concerned about the problem? (no, not really)
- Who *does* seem concerned? (Mary, his mom)
- Why do you think Jesus turned the water into wine?

### TELL

- In some of our recent past lessons, we've talked about water being a symbol of something else in Bible stories.
- Do you remember what water symbolized in the story of Jesus walking on water and the story of Jonah being thrown of the boat and into the sea? (chaos)
- That idea of water being a symbol of chaos continues in this story.
- During Jesus' time of life, water by itself was not something that was clean or safe to drink.
- So if you drank the water/chaos, you would usually get sick.
- Often, during Jesus' time, the people drank wine instead of water.
- The wine was not very strong, but the alcohol in it was mixed with water to keep the water drinkable.
- So when Jesus changed the water into wine, he was offering everyone something they could safely drink.
- This was also a sign of what his ministry would look like – Jesus would take chaos, invite God into it, and make it into something that was available for everyone.

### DEMONSTRATION/TELL

- At first, this idea of water not being safe is not something we might understand very well because we have lots of water we can safely use.
- But there's some water that we tend to NOT use for drinking. Right? Like water from a shower? (show picture)



- The water Jesus told the servants to get was like getting *used* water from the bathtub. Yuck, right? You don't want to drink *that*, do you? (show second picture)



- Jesus took WATER, the same stuff that drips out of our pipes, but that was not safe or clean to drink... (show third picture)



- ...and turned it into something that everyone could drink safely.

- Jesus shows us that when we invite God into our problems, sometimes those problems get turned upside down and...(turn the third picture upside down)...what do you see when that happens? (WINE!)

pictures taken from <http://www.crazytieguy.com/water2wine.htm>

### DO Activity/TELL

- We're now going to do a simple craft, but with a twist to it.
- And at first, what I tell you to do might seem crazy.
- But do like the servants in the story do, and do what I say.
- The first thing we're going to do is put on our smocks.
- (put on smocks)
- Now I'm going to pass out some card stock paper to you
- Each person gets one sheet.
- (Pass out card stock)
- We're going to make a party invitation.
- Before we do any writing on it, we're going to fold it in half – (long-ways or short-ways – their preference).
- Now put the paper down.
- Next, we're going to make sure everyone has a paper plate.
- (pass out paper plates)
- Now, in a moment I'm going to tell you to take a can of shaving cream and put a medium pile of shaving cream on your plate.
- **BUT FIRST! DO NOT** put the shaving cream anywhere else except on your plate. **AND DO NOT** touch the shaving cream once it is on your plate. If you do not follow this, then you will not be allowed to finish the project. Nod your head if you understand.
- (Wait for everyone to nod their heads, then pass out cans of shaving cream. Put shaving cream on plates)
- Once you have shaving cream on your plate, take a food coloring bottle and **VERY GENTLY** squeeze it so that **ONE** drop comes out. Put three or four drops in four different places on your shaving cream mountain.
- Do this same thing with two or three other colors.
- Once you are done with the food coloring, take a straw and **VERY CAREFULLY** and slowly **STIR** your shaving cream so that the colors start to swirl together.
- Don't stir too much and stop stirring when you like the pattern.
- (Wait until everyone is to this point)
- Now take your folded piece of paper and open it up.
- Take what will be the **INSIDE** of the card and **PRESS** it gently but solidly **AGAINST** your shaving cream mountain. Remember...do what I say, just like the servants did what Jesus said.
- **NOW**, peel the paper **OFF** of the shaving cream.
- Take a cardboard square and use it like a squeegee to scrape the shaving cream off of your piece of paper.
- Put the extra excess shaving cream on one of the plates in the middle of the table.
- Underneath the shaving cream, there should be a marbled pattern on your paper.
- This will be your decoration for the party invitation.

- Use colored pencils and the fancy scissors to add words and more designs
- The type of party you're inviting people to is "God's Party" and the slogan for the party is "Where chaos is turned into Life!"
- Feel free to offer other suggestions and comments on your invitation.
- If you want to put another shaving cream design on your invitation, you may trade paper plates with someone else and use their shaving cream hill.

### TELL

- It seems strange that food coloring and shaving cream could make such a cool pattern on paper, doesn't it?
- It is not necessarily something you would have done on your own, is it?
- But because you listened to me, you got to experience something new and interesting and fun, right?
- This is what happened for the servants in the story we just read.
- They listened to Jesus and because they did, a pretty cool thing happened: Water (also known as CHAOS) that was NOT safe to drink became wine that WAS safe to drink.
- Because a few people listened, then lots of people experienced a better party.
- The Good News for today is that God does *not* want chaos for us, and if even a few of us listen to God and are obedient, then the other people around us will see how much better life is when we live God's Way, and they'll want to be invited to God's Party too.
- So after class find someone to give your God's Party invitation to, ok?

### CLEAN UP

### DISMISS