



**The wedding at Cana**

## Colour me!



## John 2:1-12

Three days later Mary, the mother of Jesus, was at a wedding feast in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited and were there. When the wine was all gone, Mary said to Jesus, "They don't have any more wine." Jesus replied, "Mother, my time hasn't yet come! You must not tell me what to do." Mary then said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do." At the feast there were six stone water jars that were used by the people for washing themselves in the way that their religion said they must. Each jar held about a hundred litres. Jesus told the servants to fill them to the top with water. Then after the jars had been filled, he said, "Now take some water and give it to the man in charge of the feast."

The servants did as Jesus told them, and the man in charge drank some of the water that had now turned into wine. He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants did. He called the bridegroom over and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then after the guests have had plenty, the other wine is served. But you have kept the best until last!" This was Jesus' first miracle, and he did it in the village of Cana in Galilee. There Jesus showed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. After this, he went with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples to the town of Capernaum, where they stayed for a few days.

## Commentary

A village wedding, in Jesus' time, was a big occasion and the celebrations could easily go on for a week. No wonder the wine ran out! This would have been a huge embarrassment for the hosts, who may well have been friends or relatives of Mary's family. To make matters worse, it was clearly quite a society wedding, with servants on hand and even someone especially appointed in charge of the food and drink.

The miracle that takes place comes about because of Mary's total faith in her son. Jesus seems reluctant to respond to Mary at first, but out of love, he does, secretly rescuing the festivities from disaster. This is his first miracle and points forward to an even greater one that will come at the first Easter, when 'his time' arrives. Then, because of who he is and what he does, the everyday water of this life can be turned into the rich wine of the best we can all become. Just as it happened at Cana there will be more than enough new life for all, with plenty left over.

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## Questions

- ▶ Have you ever been to a wedding or seen one on television? What happens at a wedding and why is it such a special day? Now imagine how people would feel if the food and drink were to run out at the reception!
- ▶ The servants must have thought that Jesus' instructions were crazy. Why did they obey him anyway?
- ▶ What effect did the miracle have on Mary, her family and Jesus' disciples?
- ▶ Do you think that this miracle might have some special meaning for us today?



## Visual aid

Fill up a wine glass with water and place alongside it an identical glass filled with wine or grape juice. Just imagine turning over 3,000 glasses of water into wine!



## Activity idea

Imagine you're in charge of the food and drink at a special wedding. Lay a table together with as many fancy extras as you have around the house—cutlery, colourful serviettes, glasses, a menu of your favourite food, balloons, party poppers, confetti on the tablecloth and favours in a bowl. Everything should be perfect; but then add a jug of water to the display. This is all there will be to drink. Talk about how people would be disappointed and even angry. After a while, make it all good again by 'discovering' some tasty juice to drink after all. Enjoy that drink together.



## Prayer idea

Nothing is too ordinary for us to bring to God in prayer. Cut out the shape of a jar on a piece of paper, and using blue ink, write prayers about anything and everything. Pin the prayers up somewhere. Come back to them later in the week and see how God has answered each prayer. When he does, colour each jar in red, and thank God for the way he can change things for us.

## Key verse

Mary then said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do" (John 2:5).

## New Testament story link

Exodus 15:22-27: Moses turns bitter water sweet for the people of Israel and they are led on to a place with more than enough to drink.



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