

**Focus:** We listen to Jesus

**Materials:**

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-America's 25 Favorite Praise and Worship
- Bible: Beginner's Bible
- Ball or beanbag
- Book: Adam Racoon and the Flying Machine

**Gathering** (have children sit on the floor-“Criss-Cross Applesauce”)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about Jesus' baptism. This week we will hear the story of Jesus' first miracle. He had just called the disciples to be his helpers and they were just beginning to understand what Jesus was going to teach them.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

*Say: Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Loving God, thank you for giving us signs of your love.*

*Help us to recognize and celebrate knowing you are with us every day.*

*In the name of Jesus we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*This Little Light of Mine*, track: 15, from America's 25 Favorite Praise and Worship

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel - NO!  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel - NO!  
I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine.

Don't let Satan blow it out.  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Don't let Satan blow it out.  
I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine til Jesus comes.  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine til Jesus comes.  
I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine.

**Memory Verse**

*Say: Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*Do whatever Jesus tells you.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *Jesus' mother, Mary, tells the servants at a wedding to do what Jesus tells them to do. We are also asked to do what Jesus tells us to do. Jesus tells us to love others, treat them fairly and love God above all else. Jesus showed us how to live like children of God.*

### **Gospel Story**

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of John.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

**Read:** The Beginner's Bible, pp. 320-325, *A Wedding Party*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### **Discussion Starters:**

- *Who went to the wedding?*
- *What did they run out of to drink?*
- *What does Jesus' mother do?*
- *What does Jesus do?*
- *What happens to the water that was put into the jars?*
- *Why was Jesus able to turn the water into wine?*

### **Reflection on Reading:**

*In today's Gospel story, Jesus attends a wedding celebration with his mother and his friends. During the celebration Jesus' mother notices that there is no more wine. Knowing that this could be a big problem for the bride and groom, she brings tells Jesus what happened. Jesus listens to his mother. Jesus tells the servers to fill the jars with water. The water is then changed into wine and the celebration goes on. God created the world out of nothing, so he can certainly make wine out of water. When things like this happen, that no human could possibly do, we call them miracles. Jesus did many miracles during his life, to show others that he was the Son of God and to show them God's love.*

*This Gospel story describes one of Jesus' first signs that he is the Messiah-The Promised one of God who would come to save the people of God. As a result of this miracle at the wedding in Cana, the disciples begin to understand that Jesus is not the same as they are. In Jesus' day wine was a symbol of joy and celebration; this was his first miracle because Jesus came so that we might have joy and everlasting life.*

### **Gospel Activity**

#### Activity 1:

#### **Sharing Blessings**

Need a ball or beanbag. Have the kids sit in a circle.

Say:

*The wine made from the water was given to all the guests at the wedding. All of God's blessings are given to us to be shared.*

*God gives each of us different talents and abilities to share for the good of everyone. In this game, we will pass the ball around the circle and when you have the ball, you will say your name and one thing God has made possible for you to do well.*

*For example, "My name is Sally and God made me good at dancing."*

*Then that person will pass the ball to the next person, if you can you will repeat what the last person said, "Sally is good at dancing." And then say your name and what your gift or talent is.*

Continue as time permits, try to let anyone who wants to participate have a chance to share their gift.

If you have time, take a moment after each talent is mentioned to comment on the ways that it can be used for God's glory and the good of all. –Dancing makes people feel happy, etc.

#### Activity 2:

Read the book: "Adam Racoon and the Flying Machine"

- What did King Aren plan for Adam to build?
- What happened the first time Adam tried to build the flying machine?
- Why didn't Adam use the instruction book?
- What instruction book has God given us?
- The Bible doesn't teach us to build a flying machine—What does it teach us?
- What happens when we don't listen to God's Word? –We aren't happy or joyful
- What happens when we follow God's Word?
- If you were Adam, what would you tell your friends you learned from your adventure?

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

#### **Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, whose love can change our lives?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who is the miracle worker?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who shares with us the power of Jesus to make life better?*

#### **Sending Forth**

Say: *Make life a little better for those around you this week. Help a friend put his/her coat on. Show your little brother/sister how to tie their shoes or set the table. Give mom and dad a hug.*

#### **Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" track 9 from America's 25 Favorite Praise and Worship while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.