

Jesus Performs Miracles

John 2:1-11, Matthew 14:13-33

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to explain what a “miracle” is.
2. The children will be able to retell at least one of Jesus’ miracles.

Memory Verse: *“You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.” --Psalms 77:14*

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

Magic Trick

Begin the lesson with a magic trick. You can either have the students share one or pick one from the web-site <http://www.magictricker.com/>, which has many magic tricks to choose from. After you have shared the “trick”, reveal how it really works. Explain that a magic trick is not real magic. But Jesus did perform real miracles when he was on earth, and that is the lesson for today!

Fish and Bread

Bring in 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish (maybe goldfish crackers) and talk about the miracle of feeding the 5,000 with just these items! For example, you may bring in just 2 tiny goldfish crackers and discuss how you could possibly feed the entire class with just these things. Talk about what a miracle it would take for that to happen, and for everyone to be full afterwards! Continue with the lesson.

Cotton Ball Fun

Give each child a cotton ball and say: Take your cotton ball and hold it high above your heads. On the count of three, let go of your cotton ball: one, two, three! How many of your cotton balls continued to stay high above your heads? How many of the cotton balls fell? Why did the cotton balls fall? That's right; all the cotton balls fell because of gravity. Who made gravity? Can you see gravity? Why is gravity useful to us? Can you imagine what are lives would be like without gravity? Why, our houses would float off into space!

Pick up your cotton ball and place it in front of you on the table. Softly blow on your cotton ball until it moves. Did you touch it? What caused the cotton ball to move? That's right your breath or wind caused the cotton ball to move. Who makes it possible for the wind to blow? Can you see the wind? How is wind useful to us? Without wind the clouds would not move, without clouds we would not have rain, without rain we would not have water.

These were just two examples of God's invisible interaction in our life. If you think about it, you can surely come up with many more examples. When we pray and seek God, He can and will help us in ways we may not be able to see, but the help comes from God nonetheless. Today we will talk more about God’s invisible interaction in the lives of those affected by the miracles that Jesus performed.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

With God all things are possible.

John ~ Jesus Turns Water into Wine:

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. ³ The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

⁵ But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, ⁸ he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

⁹ When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. ¹⁰ "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

¹¹ This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Matthew ~ Jesus Feeds Five Thousand:

¹³ As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. ¹⁴ Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

¹⁷ "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here," he said. ¹⁹ Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. ²⁰ They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. ²¹ About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!

Jesus Walks on Water

²² Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵ About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

²⁸ Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

²⁹ "Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the three miracles in this lesson? (*Water into wine, feeding the 5,000, Jesus walking on the water.*)
2. Did any of you discover other miracles the Lord Jesus had performed? (*Share from the homework assignment.*)
3. Why do you think Jesus did these miracles? (*Jesus was showing He was the son of God, He was showing the divine power of God through Him.*)
4. What kind of miracles can we experience today? (*Healing, helping in times of trouble, discuss together.*)
5. Do you believe miracles are possible today? Why or why not? (*Discuss together.*)

Application to Real Life

Do you have enough faith to believe in miracles? The miracles of the past (in the lesson)? What about miracles today? Are they still possible? Why or why not? Discuss this together.

Look in your Bible and read **Hebrews 11:1**:

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

1. What do you think that means...sure of what we hope for and certain of what we cannot see?
2. Do you think, in the context of that verse, that the people are being commended for not seeing God and acting in faith or not seeing an event and acting in faith? (For example, in Hebrews 11:7, Noah did not see the flood but acted. In Hebrews 11:8, Abraham did not see the land he was to go to but went.) Discuss together.

Remind the children that God does exist, and He still is able to allow for miracles to happen in this world today. Encourage them to live their faith each day, and let it become a part of who they are rather than it being a “separate” person that shows up on Sunday. The deeper that relationship becomes, the more they will be able to experience God at work in their life. Review the memory verse and message statement.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Pick a fruit of the spirit – ask the children to explain what it means and give an example.
4. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
5. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One Activity

Bible Time...Digging In

Using your Bibles, give each student (or pairs of students) a different miracle to look up in the Bible and report back to the rest of the class. They need to report the following information:

1. What did Jesus do?
2. What did the disciples do?
3. What was the reaction from the people?
4. Why do you think Jesus performed that miracle? What was He trying to show/teach?

Have each student/group do a report. They could make a drawing of the miracle or report key points on a poster board for others to learn from. Another idea would be to take one of the miracles, write a skit, and perform it for the younger Sunday School classes. Sample Miracles to look up (you could also use the 3 miracles from today's lesson):

Matthew 8:23-27	Jesus Calms the Storm
Matthew 8:1-4	Jesus heals a man with leprosy
John 21:1-14	Jesus helps the disciples catch fish

God's Miracles Today – Discussion

We also can experience “miracles” today. Maybe we don’t walk on water, but God does great things for us! Have the students discuss and write about times God has helped them or a family member in a miraculous way. (Maybe it was an illness or family crisis where God intervened.) Share a time when you yourself have seen God’s hand of grace in your life. This sharing could also be done in a journaling form.

Salt & Pepper Experiment – “Removing the Harm”

What you will say:

Today, I will show you how we can always trust in our Lord to protect us, even when circumstances seem hopeless. This plate can represent the world, which we all live in. I am going to take some salt (about ¼ teaspoon) and place it on the world. This salt represents God's people. Now as we know the world is full of danger and evil. Let me take some of this pepper and put it on top of the salt. This pepper represents danger, and it is right on top of God's people. How can we remove this danger (i.e. the pepper)? (Allow for responses and explain how most suggestions would be hopeless or take forever.)

It may seem impossible to us, but God can do miraculous things. Let me show you. (Take the spoon and rub it to create static electricity, and then lift off the pepper.) You see, sometimes we are faced with danger and have no clue how to escape. God is always there for us. He can keep us safe no matter what. He can cause miracles or what seems impossible to happen in our lives.

Journal

Choose One

What is your favorite miracle Jesus performed? What did you learn from it, and why do you like it?

Write about a time when you or someone in your family experienced God’s help in a miraculous way.

Homework Ideas

- Read: **Luke 15:11-32** about the Prodigal Son.
- Learn the Memory Verse:
"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your
power among the peoples." --Psalms 77:14
- Learn the _____ Article of Faith
- Make a list of 10 things that would make you happy. Write why each one would make you happy. Bring your list and answers to Religious Instruction next week.

Other Resources

<http://children.cccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Support Curriculum → Page 2 → "Jesus Turns Water into Wine"

Take Home Page: Jesus Performs Miracles

Today I learned...

Today your child was reminded that **with God all things are possible**. The children explored some of Jesus' miracles and talked about what a "miracle" is.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples."

--Psalms 77:14

Ask me...

1. What miracles do you remember from the today's class?
2. Why do you think Jesus performed these miracles?
3. Do you believe miracles are still possible today? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Share with your child any "miracles" you have witnessed or know about from your lifetime. (The "miracle" could be an answered prayer.) Encourage your child to continue to grow in his/her faith, spending time reading the Bible and talking to God in prayer each day, so that their own relationship with the Lord can grow and they can experience God at work in their lives.