



## **The Wedding (adapted from Messy Church resources)**

Read or listen to John 2: verses 1–11

Jesus was a wedding guest in Cana of Galilee, where he performed the first of his miracles, he turned water into wine.

Mary, Jesus' mother, was also at the wedding. Mary knew the wine had run out and quietly turned to Jesus and said 'They have no more wine.'

Jesus was not expecting this moment but he turned the water into wine, to save the embarrassment of the host family and prove that marriage mattered to him. The people said that it was the best wine ever!

- When were you last at a celebration?
- Did anything go wrong at the celebration?
- What would you say to Jesus if he was seated next to you at a wedding reception?

### **An idea**

Choose your favourite drink for a family toast. Use your best drinking glasses and make a toast to everyone in your family, mentioning each person by name. Make it positive and fun with a loud shout!

The servants needed to obey Jesus before he turned the water into wine. How can we obey Jesus and listen to his commands?

## Activities

### Wedding hats

You will need: newspaper, masking tape, decorations such as tissue paper, feathers, pom-poms, double-sided tape or glue, scissors



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Create a hat from three sheets of newspaper (broadsheets create a larger hat) spread evenly over someone's head. Splay the edges, overlapping, to cover the circumference of the head. Press down on the head, moulding, creasing and scrunching the newspaper to make the head shape. Using masking tape, secure a head band around the crown of the head. Either remove the hat from the head or continue on the head and roll up the brim around the hat. Decorate as you wish. You can also use a paper plate or large baking case as a base for your hat. Use some of your flowers to create a wedding bouquet.



**Talk with your family about** how we join in with the celebration of a marriage by dressing up in garments that make us feel special on the day, whether as bride, bridegroom or guest. In Jesus' day, the bridegroom would have worn particularly splendid clothing.

A hat is a popular wedding accessory. What would Jesus and other guests have worn at the wedding at Cana? The wedding may have lasted for a week! It would have involved Jesus travelling from Jordan with his new disciples and close family relatives. What would it have been like to join Jesus at the wedding?

### **Prayer heart**

**You will need: a heart template; paper; pencils; scissors; red crayons**

Draw around the heart template on paper and cut out the shape. Write a prayer in the centre. Decorate around your prayer.

Take off your shoe and place the heart shape inside your shoe. Put your shoe back on your foot.

**Talk with your family about** however we look on the outside, God knows us because of what we are on the inside, including our strengths and weaknesses. How close is your paper heart to you now? God is even closer to you than your paper heart.

### **Wedding Food**

**You will need: small fairy cakes; fondant icing shapes; butter cream; icing bag;**



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Create mini wedding cupcakes by swirling butter icing on a fairy cake and topping with a fondant flower.

**Talk about** the importance of food at weddings and what might have been offered at weddings in Jesus' time. Imagine baked sardines, endive salads, olives and clementines, dried apricots and pomegranates, stuffed grapevine leaves, roast duck with mulberries and horseradish, racks of lamb, mamool (fruity or nutty cookies), challah bread, platters of melon, raisins, dates and candied Jordan almonds. What would you choose for the centrepiece at a wedding feast?

## Travelling water

**You will need: two clear plastic containers or beakers; woolly yarn or string; red food colouring; tape; water; tray**



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Prepare a tray or table suitable for water spillages. Sometimes experiments don't work the first time and that is okay. Just try again.

Soak a piece of woolly yarn, approximately 60 cm long, in water. Tape the ends of the woolly yarn inside each container/ beaker. Add half a cup of water to one beaker and put six drops of red food colouring in the other beaker. Lift the water beaker higher, at around a 45 degree angle, tipping the water carefully so that it trickles down the yarn and into the beaker with food colouring. The yarn forms a channel for the water to flow down. The red food colouring colours the water as it pours in, turning the water into wine.

**Talk with your family about** the servants who obeyed Jesus and filled the six large ceremonial water pots with water, then drew some out for the host to drink. How would you have felt if Jesus had asked you to take the water over to the host for tasting? Would you have felt nervous?

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, you take everyday events, like **weddings**, and show us how respect and being the good neighbour can make a difference. Help us to be there for others in their difficult times. Amen