

# "That You May Believe"

## Gospel of John

### Week 4

**Main Idea – God's miracles reveal His glory. Jesus' glory is revealed in His miracles.**

The goal of this week's lesson is to help the children behold the glory of God in His mighty works, referred to in the main point as 'miracles' for continuity. As God miraculously preserves and protects His people, His people see His glory and believe in Him. This week's lesson culminates in the Person of the Lord Jesus, whose glory is revealed in His miracles. When Jesus miraculously turned the water into wine, the revelation of His glory caused the disciples to believe in Him.

*Sunday school* teachers should emphasize the first half of the main idea in an interactive way for **20 minutes**, and explain the second half clearly without much interaction as a conclusion for **5 minutes**. *Children's church* teachers should explain the first half without much interaction for **5 minutes** as an introduction and emphasize the second half in an interactive way for **20 minutes**.

 **Pedagogical Tool** — If you struggle with time management, have your helper set a timer and give you updates on how much time you are using.

## Sunday School — Exodus 14-15

### Preparation

Materials:

- Glory illustrations
- Week 4 lesson pictures (SS)
- Two levels of word searches to emphasize main point.
- Moses parting Red Sea coloring page

Set-up:

- You can choose to tape up the glory illustrations and lesson pictures, or just show them one by one when the time comes.

### Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

Romans 1:16 (ESV) – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing “Not Ashamed” (Seeds Family Worship, ESV) at least once.

NOTE — Start the Bible Verse section at the beginning without waiting for students who may arrive late. This will preserve the allotted times for other sections.

## Lesson (20-25 minutes)

Main Idea – God’s **miracles** reveal His **glory**.

Pray

### Introduction (5 minutes)

Begin with the main point — “Here is the main point that we will learn this morning about God: God’s miracles reveal His glory.” (Have the students repeat it after you)<sup>1</sup>

If we want to understand the main point, we need to know what some of its words mean.

Question #1 — What is glory? Glory is an important/desirable/great quality of a person or object that can be seen by others. So when we talk about God’s glory, we are talking about His greatness that can be seen. God’s glory reveals (shows) to people how great God is!

Question #2 — What is a miracle? Miracles are supernatural acts (amazing things humans can’t do) that reveal the glory (greatness) of the person who performs them. So when we talk about God’s miracles, we are talking about His mighty works that display His glory (greatness) to those who can see it.

With that in mind, let’s play a game — What’s its glory? In this game, I will show you a picture of a person, place, or object, and you will try to tell me its glory (what is it like) and how we know (similar to its miracle). We will start with an example, and then you’re on your own.

Person, Place, Object	Glory (what it is like)	How we know (its miracle)
Example – Sun	Powerful (energy source)	We see the light it provides, we feel the heat it produces
1. Diamond Ring	Valuable!	We can see its size (carat), its beautiful shape (cut), its translucent color (color), and its brilliance (clarity).

<sup>1</sup> You may write down the main point on the board, or display it on the TV so that they can see it as it is repeated throughout the lesson.

Person, Place, Object	Glory (what it is like)	How we know (its miracle)
2. Grand Canyon	Majestic!	We can see its massive size, we can see its beautiful colors, we can see its rock formations.
3. Race Car	Fast!	We can see it break speed records, we can see it beat other cars, etc.
4. Steph Curry	Athletic! (Good basketball player)	We can see the championships he's won, his MVP titles, his scoring titles, his ability to dribble and shoot.
5. Eiffel Tower	Design!	We can see its shape, we can see the curves of its foundation, etc.

Now, we are going to turn to the Bible to see a time when God's great miracles revealed His glory to Israel.

### Body (15 minutes)

Open your Bibles to Exodus 14 as we begin a journey that will lead us to see the glory of God through His mighty works, His miracles! There are 5 parts of the story that will help us see God's glory. Note — You can use the provided pictures "Lesson Pictures" to help the children grasp the concept.

1. **The set-up** — God tells Moses to have Israel set up their camp in a dead end. There is the sea blocking their escape, they have nowhere to run. **Why would God tell Moses to have Israel put themselves in such a vulnerable place?** Let's hear what God has to say.

Read Exodus 14:1-4. We see that God puts Israel in a place that will tempt Pharaoh to chase after them with his best soldiers to recapture Israel! Pharaoh will think they are confused and think that he has the upper hand against God's people.

2. The slave hunt — Read Exodus 14:5-9. **What happened?** Everything happened just as God planned! Pharaoh was tempted by Israel's location and thought he could recapture them with his army!

Now, if you are an Israelite, maybe it was easy to obey the Lord and camp in a dead end when there was no one chasing you. **But how do you feel when you see the dust cloud of Pharaoh's army, the growing sound of chariots, getting closer and getting louder?** It would probably be scary. You might be tempted to doubt God's decision in making you camp in a dead end. That's exactly what the text says happens!

3. The situation — Read Exodus 14:10-12 — **How do the people feel?** They are freaked out! They are very afraid of the Egyptians. Their situation seems hopeless! In fact, the Bible says they pleaded with Moses to let them remain in slavery, because they thought it would be better for them than dying! **How will they be able to overcome their fear?** Thankfully, they have a leader like Moses — a man who trusted in God.

4. The salvation — Read Exodus 14:13-17 — Moses prepares the people to see the salvation of the Lord, His great deliverance, which will reveal God’s glory! **How will God’s people see God’s glory?**

First, God will be glorified through the destruction of a great enemy. This shows us that the Lord is all powerful, He cannot be beaten. This also shows us that He is a protector, that He will not allow His people to be destroyed. But that’s not all!

Read Exodus 14:21-22, 26-28 — **What is the second way that God’s glory is seen?** It is seen in His miracle, which is His power over creation. As the Creator, God is able to control all the elements of the creation to work for His purposes! When the waters part for Israel, and when they rush back to their place to drown the Egyptians and scatter their dead bodies on the shore, Israel can see God’s glory as the Creator—the One who controls creation.

Now that Israel’s enemy has been defeated, Israel has seen God’s glory in His miracles, they have been filled with awe/amazement at God, they have put their faith in God and His servant Moses, **what is left for them to do?**

5. The song — Read Exodus 15:1, 6, 11-12. Israel responds with worship to God for His amazing, mighty works and miracles! **What are some of the attributes of God that Israel sings about?** They sing about His power over the enemy, His power over creation, His holiness, His splendor, and His great wonders (miracles). God is amazing!

### **Conclusion (5 minutes)**

Today we learned that God’s miracles reveal His glory. When people see God’s mighty works, His miracles, it reveals to the world what He is like and it causes people to believe in Him!

That day at the Red Sea, God’s miracle saved His people from physical slavery and from physical enemies. Israel saw God’s glory (greatness) in their salvation from the Egyptians. But God understood there was a greater slavery and a greater enemy that would one day need to be defeated.

2,000 years ago, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save people from spiritual slavery and from the enemy of sin. While Jesus was on earth, one of the ways that Jesus proved He was God was to reveal His glory to the world through miracles. Miracles, like turning water into wine, revealed the glorious power of Jesus. But the greatest miracle that the Lord Jesus Christ showed the world was His resurrection from the dead! When He rose again, He revealed His power over the greatest enemy, death.

Today, we can’t see miracles like some people in the Bible were able to see miracles. But for those with eyes to see, reading about God’s miracles throughout the Bible is just like seeing them in person! Consider our Bible verse — the gospel is the *power* of God for salvation! So believing the gospel, seeing Jesus’ glory in His death for sin and resurrection from the dead, is the very power by which a person can have eternal life!

So look to the cross, Jesus’ miraculous resurrection from the dead, and if you see His glory and believe that He is Lord, you will be saved from spiritual slavery and the enemies of sin and death.

Pray

## Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)

# Children's Church — John 2:1-12

## Preparation

Materials:

- Glory illustrations (included in CCM Drive)
- Week 4 Lesson Pictures (CC)
- Two levels of word searches to emphasize main point.
- Jesus water into wine coloring page

Set-up:

- No additional set-up required

## Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

Romans 1:16 (ESV) – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing “Not Ashamed” (Seeds Family Worship, ESV) at least once.

NOTE — Starting with the Bible verse in Children's Church will help the children get some movement in before the lesson starts.

## Lesson (20-25 minutes)

Main Idea – Jesus' **glory** is revealed in His **miracles**.

Pray

### Introduction (5 minutes)

This morning in Sunday School, we learned that God's miracles reveal His glory. When people see God's mighty works, His miracles, it reveals to the world what He is like and it causes people to believe in Him!

Throughout history, there were many miracles for the world to see. God did miracles in Egypt and Caanan to show that He alone was the true God. God also empowered prophets to perform miracles that would reveal God's glory, what He is like, to the world so that they would believe His words.

All of this pointed forward to the future, when Jesus would come as God in the flesh to reveal His glory for mankind to see! One way that Jesus revealed His glory during His public ministry was

through incredible miracles that showed the world who He truly was (the Son of God) and truth about Him (He is the Creator, has power over demons, is able to give life, etc.).

That is why today's main point is: **Jesus' glory<sup>2</sup> is revealed in His miracles.<sup>3</sup>**

Before we look at a familiar miracle that revealed Jesus' glory, let's open with a game.

What's its glory? — In this game, I will show you a picture of a person, place, or object, and you will try to tell me its glory (what is it like) and how we know (similar to its miracle). Since this is the same game we played in Sunday school, we are going to break you into pairs of two (it's ok to have a group of three if you have an odd number of students). When you see the picture, you must talk with your teammate about the glory of the object and how you know. Once you have an answer, you can stand up. Pairs will answer in the order that they stood up.

Person, Place, Object	Glory (what it is like)	How we know (its miracle)
Example – Ocean	Immensity	The ocean is huge! Water covers about 71% of the earth's surface, and 97% of the earth's water is found in the oceans.
Gold	Valuable	It's rare, it's beautiful
Hurricane	Powerful	We can see its destructive effects, during and after the hurricane
Michael Phelps	Athletic! (Good swimmer)	We can see it in all the gold medals he won at the Olympics against the best swimmers in the world.
Fire	Energy	We can see the light it produces, we can feel the warmth it produces

Now, we are going to turn to one of Jesus' most famous miracles that revealed His glory

### Body (15 minutes)

Jesus and His disciples go to celebrate a wedding.

Engagement — By show of hands, who has ever been to a wedding? What kinds of things do you have at a wedding celebration?

At this wedding celebration, something unexpected happened! If you have your Bible, you can follow along.

The **Problem** (Read 1-5) — During this wedding celebration, the wine ran out. In those days, wine was the most important drink for celebrating! Weddings in those days could also last many days, and

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<sup>2</sup> Words like 'glory' and 'revealed' were explained in the Sunday school lesson. You may want to briefly review these words, but be mindful of the time you take to do it.

<sup>3</sup> You can write the main point on the board or have kids repeat the main point for help with retention.

so when they ran out of wine, they were in big trouble. It would be like inviting all your friends to your birthday party, and then telling them that you ran out of cake before some of your friends got a slice.

When they recognized the problem, Jesus' mother found Him and told Him about the problem. When Jesus heard what was wrong, His response was interesting — “Dear woman, that's not our problem. My time has not come yet.”

This is where it gets even more interesting. God promised in the Old Testament that one way Israel would know that the Messiah had come was that wine would be plentiful (Amos 9:13-14). Mary knew that Jesus was the Messiah because the angel had told her, but like many of Jesus' followers, she did not fully understand what that meant. Jesus knew that before He could make wine flow freely in Israel as God promised, He would first have to die on the cross. This is what He meant — “It is not my time to die yet. Abundant wine is one of the promises that you will have to wait to experience until after I die.”

But the problem remains — the wedding is out of wine. How will the story end?

The **Purification Jars** (Read 6-8) — At the house were six stone jars. Each jar could hold 20-30 gallons of water, which is about how much a person uses to fill one bathtub. These were special jars because they held water for purification. In Israel, if you wanted to worship God, you needed to prepare by washing. So these jars would have been very important to the owner of the house!

In a surprising move, Jesus told the servants to fill all six stone jars with water! That's 180 gallons of water! After the servants obeyed Jesus, He told them to draw out some of the water and take it to the person in charge of the wedding. The servants followed His instruction, and did as they were told.

What would happen next? How would water from stone jars help the wedding celebration?

The **Power of Jesus** (Read 9-12) — When the person in charge of the wedding tasted the water, something amazing had happened. The water had become wine! And it didn't just become regular wine, it became the best wine that anyone had ever tasted! That's why the person in charge of the wedding said, “You have kept the best wine until now!”

When Jesus turned the water into wine, the wedding was saved, the people had amazing wine to celebrate with, and everyone was happy. But that wasn't the most amazing thing that happened.

Verse 11 tells us that this was the first time that Jesus revealed His glory! And as we learned from our opening game, when a person's glory is revealed, we learn something very important about who that person is. When Jesus turned water into wine, the glory of Jesus that was seen was His incredible power. As Creator of the universe, Jesus had the power to turn water into wine.

So we ask, “Why did Jesus reveal His glory?” He revealed His glory so that people would be able to see who He was and believe that He was the Messiah. That is why the passage says that after Jesus revealed His glory, His disciples believed in Him.

### **Conclusion (5 minutes)**

Today, we learned that Jesus' glory is revealed in His miracles. When Jesus revealed His glory, it was so that people could see who He was and believe in Him. One of the primary ways that Jesus

revealed His glory was through miracles like turning water into wine. As the people saw His power over creation, some of them believed in who He was and were saved!

Which brings up an important question — do we need to see miracles today to believe that Jesus is the Messiah?

In one sense, the answer is no — we don't need to see miracles to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Miracles are no longer happening. Today, the place where God calls us to see Jesus — the Messiah — is in His word.

So that, in another sense, the answer is also yes! — There are no new miracles happening today that show us who Jesus is so that we can believe in Him. But God's word is alive! That means we can read about a miracle that Jesus did 2,000 years ago and see who Jesus is and believe in Him! That is the whole purpose of John's gospel — I am writing these amazing miracles down so that you can know that Jesus is the Son of God, and that you can believe in Him!

One of the most amazing miracles that Jesus did was rise again from the dead! Which is why the gospel — last month's Bible memory verse (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) that tells us what Jesus did for sinners — is the power of God unto salvation. When we believe the gospel by faith, it has the power to save us. And all those who believe in Jesus will one day see Him face to face.

So look to Jesus — study His miracles — and learn from them so that you will know who Jesus is and that you will come to Him for salvation.

Pray

## **Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)**