

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Epiphany 2

Preparation:

Read [John 2: 1-11](#) the reading for this Sunday over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you.

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/epiphc2.htm>

http://ecusa.anglican.org/50534_50651_ENG_HTM.htm - scroll down to find the one for today

<http://www.msscrafs.com/newtestament/wedding.htm>

<http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/pdf/New/Curr176.pdf>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/epi2les.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/water-into-wine.html>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/2-c/F-2-c.html>

Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

Candle

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

Green cloth

Newsprint and markers

Streamers – whatever colours you can find

Strong tape

Party hats (if you have them)

Balloons – blow up enough so that each child has one

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the green cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

Gracious God, bless our time together.

Loving Jesus, bless our learning together.

Faithful Spirit, bless our work together.

Amen.

Blow out the candles. Bring out the streamers, party hats and balloons. Ask the children what they think the different items can be used for. Hopefully someone will say for a party. Invite the children to decorate the space with the streamers and balloons as if for a party. If you have the party hats then get everyone to put a hat on. Ask the children what they do at home to get ready for a party (*clean up, make sure there is enough food and drink, come up with some games to play together*). Explain that in today's story Jesus is invited to a party and they run out of something important and ask Jesus to do something for them.

Story Time:

Materials needed: juice container with sealable lid, water, drink mix (Kool-Aid or something like it), plastic cups

Instructions: Put water into the container and put the lid on it. Have the drink mix and cups handy.

Teach the children the following chant:

A wedding, a wedding.

Let's go to the party.

A wedding, a wedding,

What has Jesus done?

Jesus was in Cana with his mother and his friends. They had all been invited to a wedding. Everyone was having a really good time.

A wedding, a wedding.

Let's go to the party.

A wedding, a wedding,

What has Jesus done?

Then something unexpected happened. The wine for the party ran out. Jesus' mother heard what had happened. She just knew that Jesus could do something about what happened. She went and found him.

A wedding, a wedding.

Let's go to the party.

A wedding, a wedding,

What has Jesus done?

Jesus' mother said to him, "They have run out of wine."

Jesus looked at her and replied, "That is not important to me. It is not the time for me to show who I am to these people."

This didn't matter to Jesus' mother. She told the servants at the wedding, "Do what Jesus tells you to do."

A wedding, a wedding.

Let's go to the party.

A wedding, a wedding,

What has Jesus done?

There were six large jars used to collect water in. Each jar held enough water for a family for a whole day. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars up with water."

The servants filled up the jars to the brim with the water (*bring out the container with the water*). When they were done Jesus told them to pour some out and take it to the chief servant (*as sneakily as you can add the drink mix to the container and mix it up so that it has changed colour*). When the steward tasted the water that had been turned into wine (*show the children the container with the drink mix in it*) he couldn't believe what he was tasting. He immediately went to find the bridegroom.

A wedding, a wedding.

Let's go to the party.

A wedding, a wedding,

What has Jesus done?

The chief servant said to the bridegroom, "I have never been to a wedding where the best wine is served at the end of the party and not at the beginning of the party. It is amazing!"

Only the servants that filled up the jars knew what had happened. This was the first of the signs that Jesus did to show the world that God was keeping the promises made to the people.

Share the drink in the container with the children and enjoy what Jesus did for the people at that wedding in Cana.

Response:

Idea #1: Balloon People

This will be a fun way for the children to share today's story of joy and surprise with their families and friends.

Materials needed: balloons from the party decorations, streamers from the decorations, card stock or poster board, strong tape, shape stickers – squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, fine line markers, scissors

Instructions: Cut the card stock or poster board into 15 cm/6 inch squares. Make a hole in the centre of the square with the scissors. Give each child a balloon from the decorations and a prepared square. Have them push the end with the knot in it through the hole in the square. Attach it by taping the knot down on the underside of the square. Invite the children to make the balloon into one of the characters from the story: Jesus, Jesus' mother, servant, chief servant or the bridegroom. They can use the markers, the stickers and the streamers to make their person with the balloon. As they are working talk about how the different characters would have felt in the story. Would Jesus have been annoyed with his mother? Would the servants have been surprised by what happened? Encourage the children to share the story with their families from the perspective of the character that they make out of the balloon.

Idea #2: Special Snacks

The surprise of Jesus turning the water into wine is one they can share by making this snack and giving it to someone else. If you have children with allergies you will probably not want to use this response option.

Materials needed: peanuts, mixed chocolate candies, mini-marshmallows, stick pretzels, plastic zipper bags, small bowls, measuring cups, permanent sharpie markers, note from end of lesson

Instructions: Copy the note from the end of the lesson, so that each child has a copy. Put the different food items into a bowl. Have the children wash and dry their hands. Have the children put ½ cup of peanuts and ¼ cup of each other item into the plastic bags. If you have lots of food items left then let the children make extra bags to give away. Give them the note to place in the bag after reading it to them. Zip up the plastic bags. Invite the children to decorate the outside of the bags with the sharpie markers. Encourage the children to think about who they would like to give the gift to.

Idea #3: Party Hats

These hats will be a way for the children to surprise their families and share today's story with them.

Materials needed: construction paper, stapler & staples, streamers, markers, stickers, glue, glitter, scissors

Instructions: Make a cone shape out of the construction paper and staple the edges together. Give each child a prepared hat. Invite them to print on their hat **GOD KEEPS PROMISES** and then let them decorate their hats as they want with the craft materials available. As they are decorating their hats invite them to think about how surprised the bride and groom would have been when they heard the news of the good wine. Invite them to think about who they will surprise with their party hats and share today's story with.

Closing:

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

For the coming of Jesus into the world, thank you God.

For the gift of the Holy Spirit, thank you God.

For the faith to serve, thank you God.

Amen.

Special Snack Note

Here is a little gift for you.

To help you remember the gift
of Jesus and all that he did
for each one of us.