

Bible Story 29: JESUS' FIRST YEAR OF MINISTRY

First Miracle, Nicodemus and Samaritan Woman

SCRIPTURE: John 1:35-51; 2:2:1-16; 3:1-17; 4:1-30, 39, 46-53

MEMORY VERSE: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16 KJ

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus began his first year of ministry when He was around thirty years old.

When Jesus returned to the River Jordan, Andrew and Philip met Jesus. Andrew went and brought his brother Simon Peter to see Jesus. The next day, Philip found Nathanael and took him to see Jesus. *(Later Jesus called these four men to be His disciples.)*

One day Jesus went to Cana in Galilee. Jesus went to a wedding with His mother, Mary, and His disciples. When the wine was gone, Mary asked Jesus for help. He told the servants to get 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, yes, six large stone jars and fill them up with water. The servants obeyed. A miracle happened! The water was turned into wine! This was Jesus' first miracle.

Then Jesus went to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of the Passover at the Temple. In the courtyard at the Temple, Jesus saw men selling sheep, cattle and doves. Men were at tables exchanging money. Jesus drove out the animals and overturned the money exchangers' tables. Jesus said, **"This place is my heavenly Father's house!"**

One night a man named Nicodemus went to talk with Jesus. Jesus answered his questions. Jesus said that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son and whoever believes in Him would have eternal life.

Jesus left and went through an area called Samaria. The Jews did not like the Samaritans who lived there. While sitting by Jacob's well, Jesus spoke to a Samaritan woman who came to get some water. Jesus told her that God loved all people and that He was the promised Messiah. With happiness, she believed Him. She went and brought her friends and many believed in Jesus.

On another day, Jesus healed an important public official's son who was sick. Jesus loved all people and helped many people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?