

Bible Story 29: JESUS' FIRST YEAR OF MINISTRY

First Miracle, Nicodemus and Samaritan Woman

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

MEMORY VERSE: John 3:16

BIBLE STORY:

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

Jesus returned to the River Jordan after His baptism and temptations. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming along the shore, he called Him "*the Lamb of God, the one who takes away our sins.*"

Andrew and Philip saw Jesus and followed Him that day. Then Philip went and brought his brother Simon Peter to come and 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 to attend a wedding with His mother, Mary, and His disciples. When the wine was gone, Mary asked Jesus for help and told the servants to do whatever He said to do. Jesus told the servants to get six twenty to thirty gallon stone jars that were there and fill them up with water. Then they were to take some to the master of the banquet. The servants obeyed, filling the jars with water. Then they took some to the master of the banquet. After drinking it, he told the bridegroom that he had served the best wine for last. This was Jesus' first miracle, turning 120 to 160 gallons of water into wine! Afterwards Jesus went to the city of Capernaum for a few days.

Then Jesus went to the city of Jerusalem to observe the Feast of the Passover at the Temple. When He entered the courtyard of the Temple, Jesus saw men selling sheep, cattle and

doves for offerings. Men were at tables exchanging money. Upon seeing this, Jesus made a whip out of rope and drove out the animals from the courtyard. He overturned the money exchangers' tables. Jesus said, "***This place is my heavenly Father's house!***"

While Jesus was still in Jerusalem, Nicodemus wanted to talk with Him. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a Jew who lived strictly by the Jewish laws and traditions. One night, Nicodemus visited Jesus and asked Him many questions. Jesus answered each one. Jesus said that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son and whoever believes in Him would have eternal life.

As Jesus returned to Galilee, He passed through the region of Samaria. (*The Jews did not like the Samaritans who lived there, but Jesus loved all people.*) While sitting by Jacob's well in Samaria, Jesus spoke to a woman who came to get water. Jesus explained that He was the promised Messiah. With happiness, she believed Him, left and brought ones from her town. Afterwards, they believed that Jesus was the Savior of the world.

Once again Jesus went to Cana in Galilee. A high public official came and asked Jesus to cure his very sick son, who was in Capernaum. Jesus replied, "*Return to your house. Your son lives!*" The man believed and obeyed. That very moment, Jesus healed his son.

This was the first year of Jesus' ministry.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. John the Baptist declared that Jesus was the Son of God. The public official and his family believed in Jesus. What is it to believe? Believe is to accept as true. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Andrew brought Simon Peter, Philip brought Nathanael, and a Samaritan woman brought ones from her city to see Jesus. Invite your family and friends to come to church to learn more about Jesus.
3. In the courtyard at the Temple, Jesus said, "*This is my heavenly Father's house.*" Respect the house of God, our churches.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, what did he say? What did he mean by it?
2. Who did Andrew go and get to take to Jesus? How were they related?
3. Who did Philip go and get to take to Jesus?
4. What was the first miracle that Jesus did? What happened?
5. What did Jesus see and do in the courtyard of the Temple?
6. What is the house of God?
7. What are some ways that we can show respect to the house of God, His churches?
8. When did Nicodemus go and talk with Jesus? What happened?
9. What does eternal life mean? How can someone have eternal life with God? (See John 3:16.)
10. Tell what happened when Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well.
11. How can we tell others about Jesus? Who can we invite to go to our church to learn about Jesus?
12. What did the high official want Jesus to do? What happened?
13. Who can help you when you are sick? How can we help sick people?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- If possible, talk about the Life Lessons and/or ask questions for discussion.

VISITING A CHURCH OR HOSPITAL:

- **Option 1:** Visit your church. Get permission to tour inside your church. Also, discuss ways people can respect the church buildings in your neighborhood.
- **Option 2:** Visit or send a card to someone in the hospital.

MISSION ACTIVITY: "REACHING OUT"

- Choose and prepare an activity to do together.
 - 1. Give a gift to the janitor of your church, showing appreciation for his help.
 - 2. *Clean or mow your church's yard or paint a classroom, etc.
 - 3. *Plant a tree or flowers at the church.
 - 4. For people in your church or neighborhood who are sick or the elderly:
 - Option 1:** Take flowers. Pick wild flowers yourselves or let volunteers bring the flowers. (Make sure they do not have any allergies to these flowers.)
 - Option 2:** Bake cupcakes or fix a meal instead of taking flowers.
 - Option 3:** Mow their yard.
- ***Suggestion:** Get permission beforehand.

MURAL ABOUT THE STORY:

- Choose scenes and have a poster board for each scene selected, numbering them in chronological order. If a large group, divide into groups; one group for each scene. Each individual or group is responsible for drawing one of the scenes of the story. **Suggestions:**

- Scene 1:** River Jordan where John the Baptist calls Jesus the "Lamb of God." Andrew bringing Simon Peter and Philip bringing Nathanael to see Jesus.
- Scene 2:** Jesus turning the water into wine at the wedding.
- Scene 3:** Jesus sending away the men selling animals in the courtyard of the Temple.
- Scene 4:** Nicodemus visiting Jesus at night.
- Scene 5:** Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at the well.
- Scene 6:** Jesus speaking to the high public official, telling him to go home because his son is healed.

GAME: "GRAB THE SPOON"

- Prepare a box by coloring a different color or writing a different number on each side. Select a color or number.
- Everyone sits in a circle.
- Place spoons (or another object) in the center. **Always have one minus the number of people in the circle.**
- One person tosses the box. If the color or number comes up on top, everyone grabs a spoon. The person who does not have a spoon is out. If the color or number is not on top, the person to his right tosses the box. The game continues until only one person is left.

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

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
John 1:35-51	John 2:1-11	John 2:12-16	John 3:1-17	John 4:1-6	John 4:7-30,39	John 4:46-53