

PARENTS' PAGE LESSON 23: Jesus' Ministry Begins

Timeless Truth: *Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but to save it.*

Bible Basis: Matthew 3:1-4:11; John 1:19-34; Mark 1:31-2:12; Matthew 4:24-25; Mark 3:9-15; Luke 8:1-3

Key Verse: "People brought to him all who were ill with different kinds of sicknesses. . . . Jesus healed all of them" (Matthew 4:24).

Resource: *The Story: Teen Edition, The Story for Kids/Children/Little Ones: Chapter 23*

Parent Tips:

Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity lets your family do a fun experiment with water as you remember Jesus' first miracle. The Extra Mile takes your family to a video about helping somebody in need.

Get the Point:

Preschool: Jesus shows people the power of God. I can look for God's power in my life.

Elementary: Jesus shows people the power of God. I can look for God's power in my life.

Middle/High School: Jesus shows all different kinds of people God's power through miracles.

Table Talk

Preschool/Elementary

- John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord Jesus Christ. He told people that the kingdom of heaven was coming. Some people believed him, but others thought he was weird because he wore camel-hair clothes and ate bugs. What would you think if somebody like that told you the Lord was coming?
- Have you ever eaten a bug? If not, what's the strangest thing you've eaten?
- John the Baptist was also Jesus' cousin. Do you have any funny family members?
- When John baptized Jesus, a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him." How does it feel when your parents say those words about you?
- What are some things you can do to please your parents?

Note: Young readers will enjoy hearing the stories "Heaven Breaks Through" and "Let's Go!" in *the Jesus Storybook Bible* on pages 200-213.

Middle/High School

- Jesus called a wide variety of people to be his disciples—fishermen, tax collectors, revolutionaries—why didn't Jesus call more powerful people like religious and government leaders?
- Think of the Christians you know. Are they all the same? Why does Jesus call people with different interests and personalities to follow him?
- When Jesus asked someone to be his disciple, he simply said, "Follow me." What can you do to follow Jesus more closely?

- How does following Jesus change the way you act at school or with your family?
- When Satan tempted Jesus, he used Old Testament Scriptures to defend himself. Recite some Bible verses you've memorized. If you haven't already, memorize John 3:16-17 as a family. Talk about how God's Word can protect you today.

Living Faith

Jesus seemed a bit reluctant to perform his first miracle at the wedding feast. But he turned the water into wine, because his mom asked. Do you think Jesus did this at home, because the fact that he could do it didn't seem to surprise his mother? Talk about what it must've been like to grow up in the same house with Jesus as you prepare for a fun experiment. You won't be turning water into wine, but you can add a jolt of color to this clear liquid.

You'll need to gather a clear glass or clear plastic cup, water, cooking oil, food coloring and a pencil. Fill the glass about two-thirds full with water. Now pour a little cooking oil into the glass so it creates a thin layer of oil on top of the water. Add a few drops of food coloring. What happens?

The food coloring should sit on top of the oil in a little glob. Have fun by dropping in other colors of food coloring. Now gently poke the pencil into one of the blobs of food coloring. Watch color streak into the glass. Poke all of the different colors. At the end, gently swirl the glass and see what happens. As you carefully clean up, ask these questions about miracles:

- Jesus did many miracles. Name a few. Do you think those same miracles still happen today?
- If you could've witnessed any of Jesus' miracles, which one would it have been?
- What does it tell you about Jesus that his first miracle happened at a wedding?

Extra Mile

One of the neatest events in this chapter of *The Story* occurred when the paralyzed man's friends lowered him through the roof so Jesus could heal him. For a modern-day story with a similar message, go to godtube.com and watch the inspiring 5:29 video called "The Home Run - Today's Christian Videos."

- Why did the two players decide to help the injured girl?
- Do you think the injured girl would've scored without their help?
- Do you think the players did the right thing by helping, even though it made their team lose the game?
- What's your favorite part of this video?
- Why do you think everybody got so emotional?
- Do you think the friends of the paralyzed man got emotional and started jumping around on the roof of the house when their friend was healed?