

BIBLE TIMELINE ASSEMBLIES

59. JESUS GOES TO A WEDDING

Bible Base: John 2: 1-11

Key Christian Belief: Jesus came to give us new life.

Aim: To show that Jesus is able to make a difference in every part of our lives.

You will need:

- the PowerPoint presentation attached.

You might also wish to come dressed as if you are going to a wedding and to bring:

- a wedding invitation.
- a flower for your buttonhole.
- a box of confetti.

Introduction

If you have chosen to dress up, ask the children to look at how you are dressed and to see if they can guess where you are going. Show the items you have brought with you, commenting on each one, and explain that you are going to a wedding.

Alternatively either show the picture of the bride and groom from the PowerPoint presentation or show some pictures from a wedding you have been to.

Ask the children if any of them have ever been to a wedding and talk about what happens at a wedding.

Bible Story

Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about something that happened at a wedding party. We don't know who the couple were who were getting married because the Bible does not tell us. All we know is that they lived in a little village called Cana in Galilee. However, we do know the names of at least two people who were at the party. Jesus was there, along with His mother Mary and some of His friends.

It is interesting to note that Jesus was at a party. Sometimes when I think of Jesus, I think of him teaching people about God or caring for people who were sick - and of course He did that. But here is a story in which Jesus went to a wedding party where He had fun and enjoyed Himself along with everyone else.

This reminds me that when Jesus lived on earth He wanted to be part of everything that was going on. And so today, Christians believe that Jesus cares about everything that is happening in our lives. He is with us when we are learning about God and when we are sick but He is with us just as much when we are in the playground playing with our friends, at a party or at home having fun on the computer or play station.

So the first thing to notice about this party is that they invited Jesus to be with them. And wherever Jesus is invited, He always makes a difference. The people at the party were going to be so glad that Jesus had been invited. He was going to make a very big difference at the wedding party. And Christians believe that if we invite Him to be with us in everything we do, Jesus can make a big difference in our lives too!

It wasn't long, however, before Mary noticed that something was going wrong. The servants coming in and out of the kitchen all had very long worried looking faces. So she went up to one of them and asked what was the matter.

'Oh Mary' said the servant. 'You are not going to believe this. All these people are here for a big fancy wedding party and we've nothing left to give anyone to drink. We've run out of wine. This is going to be so embarrassing. We are going to be in big trouble!'

'Don't worry!' said Mary to the servant. 'I have a feeling Jesus may be able to help.'

So she went to Jesus, told him what was wrong and asked Him if He would be willing to help. And as we shall see, even though it wasn't time for Him to start showing people who He was yet, He was still willing to help.

So the second thing to notice about this party is that they asked Jesus to help them. And Christians believe that we can still do this today. When things seem to be going wrong or we are not sure what to do, we can ask Jesus to help us, knowing that He cares about us and will always be ready to help. But notice that Mary didn't tell Jesus exactly what to do - she just told Him what was wrong and left it to Him to find the best way of helping. When we ask Jesus to help us we need to remember that He knows better than we do what the best thing to do will be and trust Him to do as He sees best.

So Mary went to the servants and said 'Jesus is ready to help. Do whatever He tells you.' She knew that if someone is going to help you, you need to be ready to do what they say. (For example, it is always wise to do what the doctor or crossing patrolman says. They can't help you if you don't do what they say!)

Jesus told the servants to fill six big stone jars full of water. As they were going to the well to fetch the water, the servants were perhaps thinking to themselves:

'Water? But you don't go to a big fancy wedding party and get water to drink! Giving our guests water to drink would be nearly as bad as giving them nothing at all! But Mary says we should do what Jesus says so I suppose we'd better do it.'

So they filled the six stone jars full of water and then took some of it to the head waiter to taste. Then I imagine that they ran and hid in a corner!

Maybe they were thinking, 'We are going to be in such trouble when he finds out that's water in there'. 'He is going to be so cross with us. I can't bear to look.'

Meanwhile the head waiter took a little sip but instead of being cross with them, a big smile spread across his face.

'Hey!' he said. 'This is the best wine I've had all day!'

The servants hiding in the corner thought to themselves:

'Wine? Did he say wine? But that was...'

And then they realised that Jesus had done something very special for His friends that day. Somehow or other, He had taken the water and turned it into wine - and it wasn't just any old wine. The head waiter said it was the best wine he'd tasted all day! So the third thing to notice from this story is that they did what Jesus told them. And what was the result? He gave them the best wine they had tasted all day!

Christians believe that when we invite Jesus into our lives, ask Him to help us, and do what He tells us the result is always the same. He gives us the best there is.

Exploring Christian Belief

Christians believe that the reason Jesus came from heaven to earth was to take the blame for the wrong things in our lives. The Bible says that He did this, first of all, so that we can have a new life as God's friends - because that is the best kind of life it is possible to have here on earth. And He did it so that we can live with Him in heaven one day - because that is the best place it is possible to be.

Jesus came from heaven to earth because He loves us and wants us to have the best. He once said: 'I have come that you might have life - life in all its fullness.'

Some people think that if they invite Jesus into their lives, and learn to do what He says He will just spoil things because He will say 'Don't do this' or 'don't do that.' But He didn't spoil things at the wedding, did He? No - instead He gave them the best wine they had had all day! Everyone who was there was glad that they had invited Jesus to be with them, that they had asked Him to help them and that they had done what He told them.

And I believe that if you do the same, you will always be glad you did because Jesus gives us the best there is!

Prayer

If this is the first assembly in the new school year, lead the children in a prayer asking Jesus to be with them throughout the year, asking Him to help them with any problems or difficulties they might face and asking Him to help them do as He says. Pray that they will know the joy that Jesus brings in every part of their lives.