

INTRODUCTION

Jesus is almighty God! He can do what no person can. The first miracle documented in the book of John is the turning of water into wine. This miracle shows Jesus' power over creation. While preparing this lesson, take time to remember Jesus is the almighty God. Praise Him for the work He is doing in your life and ministry!

Concepts covered in this lesson include:

- **God:** Omnipotent—God is all powerful.
- **God:** God is the Creator.
- **Jesus:** Jesus is God.
- **Jesus:** Redeemer—Jesus bought me back from sin.
- **Man:** Worshiping and Praising God—God deserves our worship.
I can praise God.

Demonstrations of the lessons and songs in this series, are available at: cefonline.com/freedemos/gnc



WORD UP!

"Jesus is the almighty God!"

What do you think of when you hear of a person with power? (*Allow response.*) You may think of someone important like the president or a king or queen. There are many people in the world who have the power to make laws and do important things, but there is only one person who has almighty (total) power—Jesus! These next few weeks we're going to be learning about how powerful Jesus is. Because Jesus is God, He has almighty power over everything. When you hear one of your teachers say "Word Up!" in club today we are going to say, **"Jesus is the almighty God!"** (*Say with children.*)

Materials

Word-Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Show the card and have the children repeat the statement: **"Jesus is the almighty God!"** Tell them that anytime you call out "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless or just anytime!

If you wish to add actions to the Word Up!, touch right middle finger to left palm then left middle finger to right palm when you say "Jesus." Hold arms out with elbows bent outward and flex muscles when you say "almighty." Point up when you say "God."



SMALL GROUP TIME

"Jesus Is..." game

(*Have the children sit in a circle with their legs crossed.*) Can someone tell me something you know about Jesus? (*Allow responses and write correct answers on a poster board. Truths could include Jesus is God's Son, Jesus is perfect, Jesus is powerful, Jesus loves me or Jesus is alive.*) We're going to play a game with what we wrote down. To play this game we're going to have a pattern. The pattern is to pat your legs twice, clap twice, hold open your left hand then hold open your right hand. (*Model the pattern for the children then practice with them.*) At the end when we open our hands we're going to say together one of the things we wrote down about Jesus. (*Repeat the pattern multiple times, each time saying together the next truth from the poster board.*)

Materials

Pen
Marker
Poster board



LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Slide 1

(Draw seven lines on a poster board or whiteboard. Number each blank in order. On separate slips of paper write each word of the sentence “Jesus is God who cares for people.” Number the words 1-7 on the back. Have children pick a word from the box or bag throughout the Bible lesson to create the secret sentence.) This board has a secret sentence on it. I’ll need your help reading some clues and finding the secret word hidden in each one. Listen to this true story from God’s Word and you’ll get some helpful clues.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Slide 2

Many, many years ago God created the whole universe. Raise your hand if you can tell me one thing in the universe God made. *(Allow response.)*

God’s most special creation is people! God created people to love and obey Him. The very first people were Adam and Eve. They lived in a beautiful garden God made called Eden. Sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God instead of trusting and obeying Him. Their disobedience brought sin into the world.

God punished Adam and Eve by sending them out of the Garden and their bodies began to die. But God promised to send someone who would win against sin. In the Bible this person is called the Redeemer—the one who would pay for the sins of the world. His great plan to redeem (buy back) the world from sin was promised in the first book of the Bible, in Genesis 3:15. *(Have a child read Genesis 3:15b, pick a word card, and place it on the correct spot on the board. Match the numbers on the back of the word cards with the numbers on the board.)*

Many years passed after Adam and Eve sinned but the Redeemer—the Savior—still hadn’t come. During those years, God kept telling His people, the Israelites, who He is and what He is like. He gave them His words written down. We can find these words in the Old Testament part of the Bible! God spoke through men called prophets. The Old Testament prophets kept talking about the Redeemer who would come. The things they wrote down were like clues to help the people know the Redeemer when He came! *(Have a child read Micah 5:2, pick a word card and place it on the correct spot on the board.)*

Many kings ruled during these years. Often the kings and the Israelite people didn’t know or love God. They didn’t believe God is the one true God. They didn’t obey Him.



To not obey God is sin. The Bible says that we all want to go our own way. *(Have a child read Isaiah 53:6, pick a word card and place it on the correct spot on the board.)* We are born already turned away from God, going our own way, instead of being turned toward God, loving and obeying Him. Maybe sometimes you are playing

Materials

“Secret Sentence” poster
“Secret Sentence” cards
(See GNC Resource Pack.)
Box or bag

Preschool Help

Most young children will not be able to read the clues for the Secret Sentence activity. However they would enjoy finding brightly colored bookmarks in your Bible that indicate the location of each verse clue.

Materials

Point to “God creates the world”
on Timeline.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Materials

“Secret Sentence” cards

Preschool Activity

Allow the children to look closely at a Bible. Show them which part is the Old Testament and explain that it is God’s Word.

Preschool Song

“I Believe the Bible” v. 3

with your friends and you want to be the leader in the game but they won't let you so you get mad and go home. Maybe you have a friend you want to spend time with and you don't want anyone else to spend time with your friend. Both times, you are being selfish—wanting things your own way. These are examples of sin and sin hurts God deeply. God is perfect and without sin (holy). Because God is holy, He must punish sin. The punishment for sin that you and I deserve is to be separated from God now and forever. This is not what God wants for you and me. But that's what sin does. Disobeying God and going your own way is sin.

Many of the Israelite people and kings went their own way and disobeyed God. Some Israelites, though, were waiting for the Redeemer, who would be the greatest King ever. *(Have a child read Isaiah 9:7, pick a word card and place it on the correct spot on the board. Then have a child read Zechariah 9:9, pick a word card and place it on the correct spot on the board.)*

Finally, when God's time was just right, He sent the Redeemer! *(Have a child read Galatians 4:4a, pick a word card and place it on the correct spot on the board.)* The Redeemer was the King but He came as a tiny, helpless baby. He came just as the Old Testament had promised! His name is Jesus, God's Son. He is the Savior—the only one who can redeem you (buy you back) from the punishment you deserve for your sins. *(Have a child read Matthew 1:21, pick a word card and place it on the correct spot on the board, completing the sentence. Say the secret sentence, Jesus is God who cares for people, with children.)*

We've discovered the secret sentence together! In the next few weeks we're going to see how Jesus showed He is God and how He cares for people—all kinds of people! And we'll see how much He cares for you and me. The Bible, God's true Word, tells us about Jesus. Believing in Him and what He has done will change your life forever!

Baby Jesus grew to be a toddler, then a boy your age, then a teenager, then a man. Jesus was different from anyone else because He is God and man in one person.

Slide 3

Say with me, **"Jesus is the almighty God!"** *(Say with children.)* He is the Savior from sin. When Jesus was about 30 years old, He began doing and saying things to show people that He is the perfect Son of God—the Redeemer.

Slide 4

Jesus chose men to be His followers. They were called His disciples. Eventually, 12 men were chosen. They did a lot of things together—traveling, eating, talking, laughing and most important, learning from Jesus. One day Jesus and some of His disciples were invited to a wedding. Back then weddings didn't last just one day—they could last a week! There was a lot of eating, happiness and laughter at weddings. Because the weddings were so long, the family giving the wedding needed to have plenty of food and drink for everyone! The most common thing to drink then was wine. Jesus and His disciples were at the wedding when something happened. The hosts (people in charge of the wedding) ran out of wine! Oh no! It would be embarrassing for them and also disappointing for the guests. What would they do?!

Materials

"Secret Sentence" cards

If using KJV you might want to substitute the word "donkey" in Zechariah 9:9.

Materials

Point to "The Savior is born" on Timeline.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Children would enjoy crouching down then pretending to grow taller.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Teacher Help

If you have just taught *God: The Creator King* you may wish to condense the information in Flashcard 1-1.

Preschool Help

The children would enjoy pretending to be the disciples walking or eating with Jesus.

Teacher Help

Wine was often used (and still is in many countries) because of the impurity of the water supply. Don't let this issue distract from the main point—the glory of God the Son in His first miracle.

Preschool Help

Let the children see and touch a cup or plate while they tell you what they like to eat or drink at weddings or other parties.

Lesson 1

Preschool Song

"Praise Him, Praise Him"

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Teacher Help

If desired, tape six pictures of water jars to a wall in the corner of the room before club. Have six children go to the "water jars."

90-100 liters

Materials

Empty gallon milk jug

Teacher Help

For visual learners, you may wish to have a clear container with water and a clear container with red juice to help illustrate this miracle.

Slide 5

Jesus' mother, Mary, was also at the wedding. She went to Jesus and told Him that the wine had run out. What do you think Mary wanted Jesus to do? Maybe she wanted Him to do a miracle, something only God can do!

Mary knew Jesus could do a miracle because she believed Jesus is the almighty God.



If you believe in Jesus as your Savior, you can **believe Jesus is the almighty God. Praise Him!** The Bible tells us that one day everyone will bow before Jesus and worship Him. This is what it says about Jesus. (*Read Revelation 15:3b-4.*) Jesus is the almighty God. He deserves your worship. It's important to think about Him every day. One way you can do that is by giving Him praise. You praise Jesus by telling Him how much you appreciate something about who He is or what He has done. You can praise Him for His love and care for you. You can praise Him for being your Savior. You can praise Him for working in your life, even if you don't understand how or why. You can praise Him that you'll be able to live with Him forever. When you take time each day to remember who Jesus is and what He's done, that will lead you to praise Him!

Slide 6

Say with me, "**Jesus is the almighty God!**" (*Say with children.*)

Mary believed Jesus is the almighty God. She knew Jesus could do a miracle.

Jesus told Mary it was not the time for everyone to know about Him yet. Then Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus said. (*Read John 2:5.*) Would Jesus do something?

Slide 7

There were six large jars at the wedding. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. Back then they couldn't just turn on the faucet and get water. They would have to get it from a well. Let's pretend to go to the well to get water. (*Do with children.*)

The servants started filling up the jars. Each jar could hold 20 or 30 gallons of water. That's like 20 or 30 big milk jugs poured into one stone water jar! (*Show an empty gallon milk jug.*) Finally the servants had filled all six of them.

Then Jesus said something strange. He said, "Take some out and give it to the person in charge of the feast." Let's all pretend to fill a cup with water and give it to the host. (*Do with children.*) The servants did exactly what Jesus asked and took some to the person in charge.

When the host tasted the water, it didn't taste like water and it didn't look like water—Jesus had turned the water into wine! Can you do that? No! Only God could do this! The person in charge was so happy! He didn't know it had been water just a few minutes earlier! He called the groom over and told him how surprised he was that the best wine was being served at the end of the feast. Jesus had turned ordinary

water into the best wine! I couldn't do that with this cup of water (*hold up cup of water*). I can't make the water turn into anything else without adding something to it. But Jesus could because He is the almighty God! It wasn't a magic trick; it was a miracle! Jesus was showing that He is the almighty God who has power over all Creation.

Slide 8

Say with me, **"Jesus is the almighty God!"** (*Say with children.*)

Slide 9



The Bible says this about Jesus, (*read Colossians 1:16*). Jesus, who is God, created everything in the whole world just by speaking words! Not only that, this verse says everything was created for Him. The universe and everything in it was made to please God and give Him glory. To bring glory to God is to show how good He is. When He made you, He made you to please Him and to bring glory to Him. You are not holy (perfect) like God but He still loves you. He made you special and unique! Only the almighty God could make each part of your body to work with all the other parts to keep you living, breathing and moving.

Jesus is the almighty God, who has power over everything in the world because He made it all! Jesus showed His power when He took ordinary water and made it wine.

The Bible says this was the first sign (miracle) Jesus did to begin to show people that He is God and has power over all created things! Jesus was starting to do things to show people He is the Redeemer—the Savior who God had promised would come.

Slide 10



About three years after Jesus made the water into wine, He finished His work as the Redeemer on Earth. (*Read Revelation 1:5b.*) Because of God's great love for you, Jesus gave His blood when He died to free you from your sin. When He was on the cross, He took all your sin on Himself and was separated from God so you wouldn't have to be. By paying the price God requires, Jesus redeemed you. Only Jesus could take your punishment because He is God's perfect Son who had never sinned. After He was buried, many people thought that was the end—but it was not! To prove He is almighty God and to finish His work on Earth, Jesus came alive again on the third day! Today Jesus is alive and ruling in Heaven and promises He will come back one day and end sin forever. **Believe Jesus is the almighty God your Redeemer.**

Slide 11

Say with me, **"Jesus is the almighty God!"** (*Say with children.*)

Materials
Cup of water

Materials
Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Song
"God Made the Mountains High"

Preschool Song
"Nothing but the Blood"

Slide 12

Jesus truly is the Savior God the Father promised to send! Do you remember that Jesus had His disciples with Him at the wedding? They saw what Jesus did and they were amazed!

CLIMAX

The disciples believed in Jesus that day! They began to put their trust in Him!

CONCLUSION

The disciples still didn't completely understand who Jesus was but the Bible says they believed that day. Jesus would do many other things to show His power as God the Son and also show how much He cares for the people He has made.

INVITATION



What about you? Have you believed in Jesus? To believe is to put your trust completely in Jesus as the Redeemer, the only one who can take away your punishment for sin. The Bible says, (*read John 20:31*). The story you heard today was written down in the Bible so you can hear or read it and believe that Jesus is who He says He is—the Son of God! He wants you to trust in Him completely as your Redeemer. He wants to save you from sin so you can have a close relationship with Him now and forever. When you trust Jesus as your Savior, you will have new life—God the Holy Spirit will live in you, He will be with you always, and help you live for Him. Will you believe in Jesus as your Redeemer today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you are ready to believe in Jesus as your Redeemer or you have questions about what that means, please show me by raising your hand. (*Acknowledge responses.*) If you raised your hand, meet me (*designate time and location*) so I can show you from the Bible more about believing in Jesus, your Redeemer.

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child's expression of that belief to God. (See "Guiding a Child to the Savior" on the inside front cover.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use John 3:15 and "believe in" terminology. Ask those who have questions about believing in Jesus to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.