



PREVIEW ONLY

Mary and the New Wine
Why Jesus is the Life of the Party
by Paul Ellis

What In Cana, disaster strikes; a wedding party has run out of wine. But one guest has a secret that may save not only the party, but the whole world.

Themes: mothers, women, grace, joy, parties

Message Jesus is the new wine from heaven who brings great joy to all

Who Minimum 4 characters with doubling; 7+ characters without

NARRATOR (for table readings; otherwise replace with lines for direction)

MARY, the mother of Jesus

JESUS, the wine-maker and savior of the party

SUSANNA, Mary's cousin

SHIMRI, Susanna's husband

The banquet MASTER

The hard-working SERVANT

Assorted PARTY GUESTS who react with adlibbed lines

Props Drinking goblets

Time 6 minutes

Age 11+

Source John 2:1-11

Bonus Free leader's guide with fun facts, discussion questions, and illustrations.

Narrator Jesus and his mother Mary were invited to a wedding in the town of Cana.

Susanna *(Embracing Mary)* Welcome, Mary. How lovely to see you. Shimri, you remember my cousin.

Shimri steps closer, smiling politely.

Shimri Of course. Always a pleasure.

Susanna And this is Mary's son. I'm sorry, I have forgotten your name.

Jesus steps in as well and smiles.

Mary His name is Jesus. *(Scans the party)* Isn't this a lovely wedding?

Narrator It was a beautiful day for a wedding. The bride and groom were standing under a decorated canopy and were adorned like a king and queen. Presiding over the ceremony was the master of the banquet.

The banquet Master knocks on the table to silence the guests.

Master My friends, we have come to celebrate the blessed union of Moshe and Leah. Who witnesses the signing of their marriage contract?

Susanna and Shimri raise their hands.

Susanna I do.

Shimri And so do I.

Master Let us pray.

The Master and the guests bow their heads.

Master *(Cont'd)* Blessed are you, O God, who created life. Bless these two who stand before you as you blessed the first couple in the Garden of Eden. Blessed be this holy union.

All Amen.

Narrator After the prayers had been prayed and the blessings uttered, there was feasting and dancing. But then, disaster.

Mary They have run out of wine.

All *(Grumbling)* More wine, please.
Waiter, what's wrong with this cup?

The guests are unsettled. Mary looks worried. She turns to Jesus.

Mary Jesus, they have run out of wine. You could do something.

Narrator Mary knew that Jesus had a secret. He was not just the son of a carpenter; he was the Son of God. Surely the Savior could save this party. But Jesus seemed reluctant to help.

Jesus Woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come.

Mary I know this family. They are poor. They had to borrow from their neighbors to pay for all this. Now they will be embarrassed.

Jesus The world is full of poor people.

Mary It is not God's will for this couple to be disgraced on their wedding day. You have come to reveal the favor of heaven and gladden the hearts of men. Why not here? Why not now?

Jesus If I do this, it will change everything. I will no longer be known as Mary's son.

Mary It is time.

Mary looks sure about this. Jesus still seems hesitant but then he nods.

Narrator Mary stopped a passing servant.

Mary *(To servant)* Whatever he says, make sure you do it.

Narrator Jesus pointed to six large stone jars sitting in the courtyard.

Jesus Fill those with water.

Servant *(Stressed)* Can't you see how busy I am?

Narrator But when the servant saw Jesus' face, he changed his mind.

Servant Er, yes sir. No problem.

The Servant gets on it right away.

Narrator He recruited several of the other servants and together they began filling buckets from the well. It was a big job and the servants needed many trips to fill the stone jars.

The Guests begin to notice what is happening.

Susanna *(Pointing)* Look at them. What are they doing?

Shimri They are refilling the water pots.

Susanna *(Puzzled)* But why? We all washed when we arrived.

Shimri It's poor service, is what it is. They should be keeping my cup filled.

Susanna shakes her head.

Susanna You just can't get good help these days.

Shimri I blame the Romans.

Narrator When all six jars were filled to the brim, Jesus spoke to the servant.

Jesus Draw some out and take it to the banquet master.

The Servant looks at Jesus as if he's crazy.

Servant Are you trying to get me fired?

The Servant sees Jesus' face.

Servant (Cont'd) Oh, alright. I'll do it. Here goes nothing.

The Servant carries a goblet to the Master.

Master What's this? More wine? Oh good, I thought we'd run out. Let me taste it.

The Master has a look of delight and surprise.

Master (Cont'd) Mm-mmm. Why it's simply marvelous! Truly extraordinary!

Narrator The banquet master leaned down and spoke into the ear of bridegroom.

Master Moshe, I've been to a lot of weddings. Usually people give the good wine first, but you have saved the best for last. This new wine is better than the old.

The Master turns to the guests.

Master My friends, please raise your cups. Moshe and Leah, the cup of wine symbolizes the cup of life. As you drink from this cup, may you draw happiness from your own cup of life. May your cup be always full and always sweet. To the bride and groom.

All To the bride and groom! *Mazel Tov! L'chayim!*

Narrator Of course, the master did not know what had happened, and the groom did not know what had happened...

Servant But I know what happened!

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