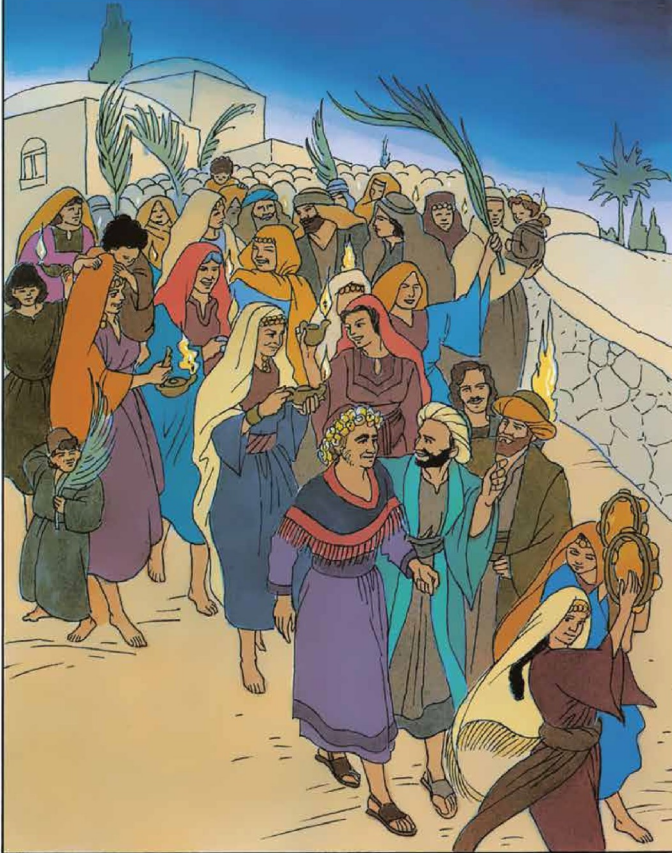


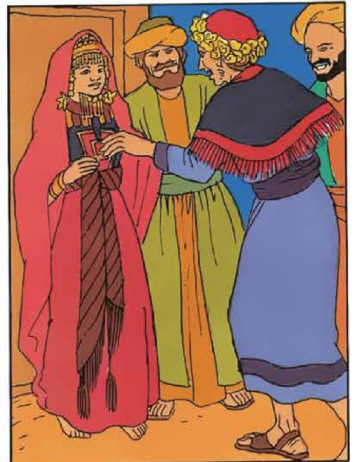
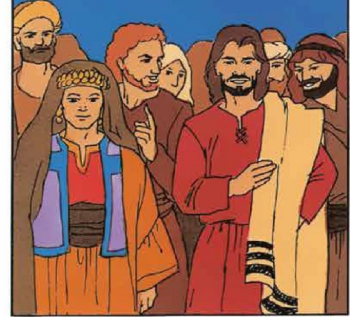
THE CELEBRATION GOES ON

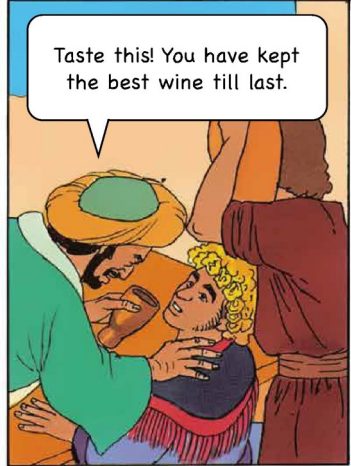
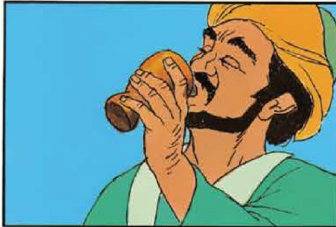
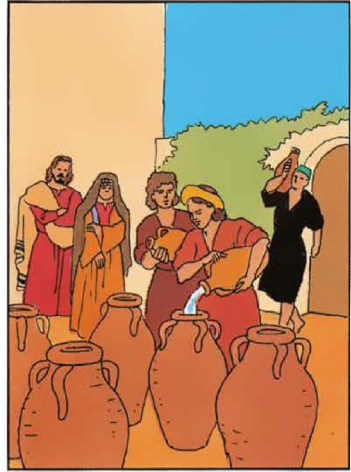
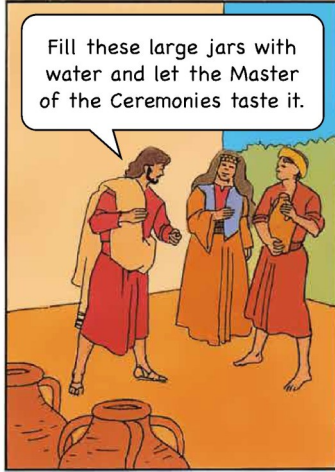
READ FOR YOURSELF: John 2:1-11

In Cana, in the hills of Galilee, a wedding is taking place...



Jesus is also at the celebration, with his mother and some friends...





3

THE CELEBRATION GOES ON

How does the Lord Jesus begin His public ministry? It's at a celebration, a wedding. This takes place in Cana, in the north of Israel. The Lord Jesus has grown up in that neighbourhood. He is just one of the local people and participates in all the activities of their daily life. He is one of the guests.

But then the celebration takes an unpleasant turn. There is no more wine. That means that there will not be a happy ending for this celebration. Jesus feels how painful the situation is. What should be done? Mary, His mother, has complete faith in Jesus. For 30 years since His birth, she has silently waited for the moment when Jesus would start working.

And then, quietly, Jesus performs a miracle. In the inner court of the house are six big jars. These are used to wash hands and do the laundry. Each jar holds 100 litres of water. But Jesus turns that water into wine. The best wine there is!

Jesus begins his public ministry not with words, but with a miracle. Ordinary water turns into the best wine. It is as if He wants to say, "Just watch out. I make all things new." And so it is. Everything that looks normal becomes different when Jesus is near. Life becomes a celebration, right to the end!

MEMORY VERSE

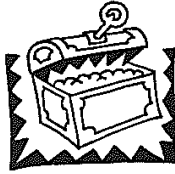
"May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice!"
(Philippians 4:4)

WHO IS JESUS?

Son of Man

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; He came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."
(Mark 10:45)

Daniel 7:13,14 talks about a Son of Man who shall reign as King forever. Does this refer to a super-man? No, it talks about Jesus, who was just as human as you and me. That's right! The dear Son, the Son of God, is also a son of man. The Son of man, because He was the first human as God intended how a man should be.



JESUS GIVES JOY!

Jesus is so normal that He wants to be part of your everyday life. But He is also so special that He wants to make your ordinary life special. He is there for you when you are sad. And He is there for you when you are happy.

Surely, He wants you to have joy in your life. His joy! That is stronger than anything you'll ever experience. Jesus' joy is stronger than your deepest sorrow. Sometimes you may lose that joy. Listen to God's soft quiet voice again and hear how much He loves you. You will find understanding and comfort and new joy in Jesus.

TIP

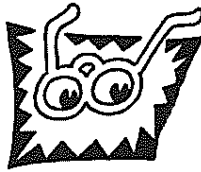
You will feel a deep joy when you realize how much God loves you. You can be sure if you look to Jesus what He did for you! Keep your eyes and ears on Jesus every day!

OLD TREASURES

Marriage is very important to the Lord God. That is because love is very important to Him. Nowhere else can people love each other as much as they do in a marriage relationship.

In the beginning, at the creation God brought a man and woman together so that the two would become one. You can read about marriage in the second chapter of the Bible. That's how important it is to God.

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one.”
(Genesis 2:24)



EXTRA INFORMATION

The wedding

In the days of Jesus, a wedding was a big festivity. In the evening, the bride would wait for the groom in her parent's house together with her friends. He would leave his house with a group of friends to pick her up from her house. Along the way, the group would become a whole procession. The musicians at the front and family and friends behind, carrying flowers and palm branches. Torches and lamps would light up the procession.

After they were brought together, the groom would say “According to the Law of Moses, you are my wife and I am your husband from now on.” After that the couple would be crowned with a ring of flowers like a real king and queen. While the musicians and dancers create a festive atmosphere, a banquet was held. The celebration could last for a week.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How did Jesus for the first time show who He is?
 - a) He performed a miracle
 - b) He went to a Wedding
 - c) He said right away who He is.

2. How old was Jesus when He began His public ministry? (Luke 3:23)

3. How much wine was in each water container?

4. What are the names of the first man and woman in the Bible?

5. What has faithfulness to do with marriage?

6. The Bible calls Jesus the Bridegroom. The people who believe in Him are called the Bride. Why?

-
7. Son of man means:
- a) Jesus is God's Son and not really human
 - b) Jesus is God's Son and was completely human
 - c) Jesus is an angel

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 2:1-5
Mon	John 2:6-11
Tue	Philippians 4:4-7
Wed	Genesis 2:18-25
Thu	Ephesians 5:22-33
Fri	1 Peter 3:1-12
Sat	John 15:9-12



ACTION POINT!

Do you know people with a good marriage (perhaps your parents)? Tell them that it makes you happy. Make a drawing for them. Write under your drawing the names of the man and woman, followed by "Love is eternal" (1 Corinthians 13:8).