

28.16 Jesus Makes Water into Wine (John 2:1–12)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- A 5-gallon bucket
- A pitcher of water (in a clear container or glass if possible). Before the lesson, drop a drop of food coloring on the stirring spoon. Let it dry. When the story is being told, put the spoon in the water as a dipper at the appropriate time. The food coloring will dissolve and turn the water into another color (Mission Arlington).
- Flannelgraph figures from CEF’s “Life of Jesus”

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:

- *disciple*: someone who follows a teacher in order to learn from him
- *wine*: There is much dispute about whether this is unfermented or fermented grape juice. The Greek word is *oinos*, which Bible dictionaries state refers to regular, fermented (alcoholic) wine. In 1869 Thomas Bramwell Welch first pasteurized grape juice in order to store it in unfermented form. ✓It seems likely, given the climate of Bible lands, that the grape juice began to ferment even as the grapes were being crushed (Wikipedia). The foregoing argument does not endorse the consumption of fermented wine in any setting. Whether *oinos* indicates fermented or unfermented “wine,” Scripture is clear that no one is to become drunk.
- *Jewish weddings*: These usually began at twilight or night and included a procession with lit torches to the house of the bridegroom, where the marriage and marriage feast took place. The feast could last several days, even a week, depending on the wealth of the bridegroom.
- *miracle*: a supernatural sign, like turning water into wine, which no human power could do

Scripture: (ESV)

John 2:1 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

Introduction/Review:

Jesus “decided to go to Galilee” (John 1:43) There He called Philip (and Nathanael) to be His disciples.

Nathanael knew Jesus was “the Son of God, the King of Israel!” Today’s story begins to demonstrate how this statement is true.

Story:

Cana of Galilee [locate on map, probably 3 miles northeast of Nazareth] was the site of a wedding, and Jesus and His disciples were invited. How many disciples did Jesus have at this time? [Five or possibly six: John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathanael, and ✓maybe James, the brother of John.] ✓Perhaps the bride and/or groom were friends or relatives of Mary, for she seems to have had a role in the feast. Indeed, she came to Jesus and informed Him, “The wine is running out.” (What an embarrassment for the groom!)

“Woman”

Jesus’ response to His mother has been taken by many to be disrespectful because, rather than *Mother*, He addressed her as *Woman*. That sounds strange to us, but ✓using *Woman* was a term of courteous respect (like “*Ma’am*” or “*Sir*”) and could be stated with compassion as He did in other cases (John 4:21; 20:15; 19:26; Matthew 15:28) (Barnes in Online Bible).

You know, I still sometimes try to “mother” my grown children by making suggestions that they, as adults, do not need. ✓I think Mary was doing the same by telling Jesus that the feast lacked wine. She was suggesting that Jesus take care of the need somehow. But Jesus mildly and tenderly rebuked Mary’s intrusion into His ministry when He said, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” He was saying, “You are not the mother of that in me [My godhead] which works miracles” (Augustine).

Nevertheless, Mary told the servants, “Do what He tells you to do.”

Water

When the wine had actually run out, ✓Jesus’ time to do this miracle *had* come. He saw six huge stone jars standing near. Each huge jar could hold ✓20 to 30 gallons of water. So, how much water would all six jars hold? [Take time for some math: 6 jars x 20 gallons = 120 total gallons, or 6 jars x 30 gallons = 180 total gallons.] How does that compare to my 5-gallon bucket? [Math again: 120 gallons divided by 5 gallons = 24 buckets; 180 gallons divided by 5 gallons = 36 buckets.]

Jesus told the servants, “Fill the jars with water.”

What a lot of work! But the servants did as Jesus said and filled those jars to the very top—to the brim—with 120 to 180 gallons of water! I can just imagine their going back and forth to the town well with their small container, bringing all that water—24 or 36 trips if they had a five-gallon bucket.

Wine

“Now,” said Jesus, “take some water out of a jar and take it to the person in charge of this feast.”

The servants did so. The man in charge tasted the wine and exclaimed to the bridegroom, “You have saved the best wine until now. This is great!” Jesus doesn’t do things poorly; He does the best.

Glory

The Bible states, “This, the first of his signs (or miracles), Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And his disciples believed in Him.” What does this mean? Had Jesus done other miracles before this—miracles like healing animals when He was a boy? [No. This was His first miracle.] Where did He do it? [In Cana of Galilee.] What did this miracle show about Jesus? [His glory, His Godness.] What was the effect this miracle had on His disciples? [They believed in Him.]

After their time at the wedding, Jesus, His brothers, Mary, and the disciples went to a town named Capernaum [locate on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee] and stayed there a few days. This seems to be the place where Mary had settled. It became the main place that Jesus would call home in the next

three years.

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God: Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine, was done to manifest His glory.
- Jesus approves of and blesses marriage.
- Do not be drunk with wine or strong drink. (There is no hint of drunkenness in this story.)
- Mary was not an intercessor, for Jesus mildly rebuked her. She was not immaculate. She had other children. Side note on Jesus' earthly family: "Our Lord's brethren are mentioned nine times in the New Testament, and a study of these references will give us some light. Three of them, namely, [#Joh 7:3,5,10](#) [1Co 9:5](#) [Ga 1:19](#), are rather noncommittal. The other six ([#Mt 12:46](#) [13:55](#) [Mr 3:32](#) [6:3](#) [Lu 8:19,20](#) [Joh 2:12](#)) speak of his brethren in connection with his mother, and strongly indicate that Jesus was the first-born son of Mary, and that she had at least four other sons, besides daughters. These brethren of Jesus are constantly represented as attending his mother, without a hint that they were not her children" (TFG in Online Bible).
- Jesus listened to His mother and did not complain or argue.

Activities: (Handwork items below might be done in activities if not as handwork.)

- Play dough: jars
- Present the story, "Growing Grapes—Vine to Wine," flannelgraph from Accent Publication's Junior curriculum, JT1C, Lesson 5. Or explain the process of producing wine, starting with the planting of the grape vine. Here is a link for this information: <http://wheatstatewineco.com/how-wine-is-made/>. Also, see chart below for ten steps in wine production. (This chart is from a slide show of thirteen slides showing wine production.) Explain that Jesus bypassed all of these steps.
- Snack: Have a small amount of grape juice available for each student to drink. (Take precautions with younger students to avoid spills.)
- Sing "Water to Wine" to the tune, "Here Comes the Bride," found below.
- Have you ever heard people say, "Jesus danced: He went to a wedding"? This faulty reasoning comes as a result of dancing's being so much a part of modern weddings. That is not to say that Jewish weddings today do not include dancing of the folk variety, but it is no proof that Jesus danced. In all things, including weddings, we are to glorify God.
- Review questions: (Game: Prepare six "jars" for each team cut out of wallpaper and backed with flannel or flocked scraps. For each correct answer, a student may place a "jar" on the flannel board.
 1. In what town did the wedding take place? [Cana of Galilee.]
 2. Who told Jesus the wine was gone? [His mother, Mary.]
 3. Jesus told Mary, "My time is not come." Whose will did He come to do? [God's.]
 4. What did Jesus tell the servants to do? [Fill six water pots with water.]
 5. How big were the water pots? [They each contained about 18 to 27 gallons.]
 6. What did the master of the feast say about the wine Jesus made? [It was better than the other wine.]
 7. Why did Jesus turn the water into wine? [To manifest His glory—His godness.]
 8. About how many disciples did Jesus have at this point? [Five or six.]
 9. How did the disciples respond to this miracle? [They believed on Jesus.]
 10. To what city did Jesus, His brothers, Mary, and His disciples go after the wedding? [Capernaum.]

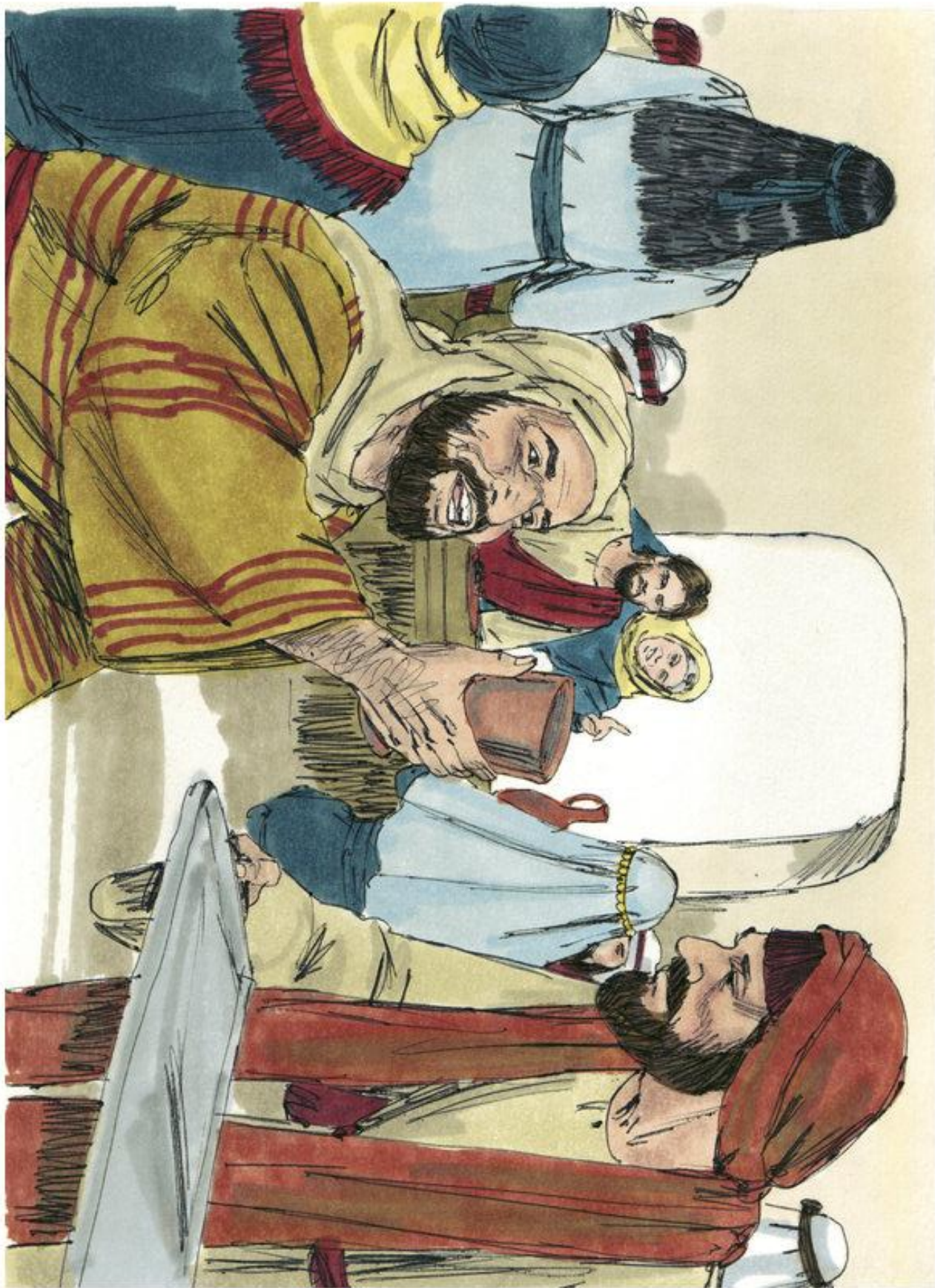
Handwork:

- Copy and print a photo of a wedding known to students. Attach it to a "jar" cut out of wallpaper.

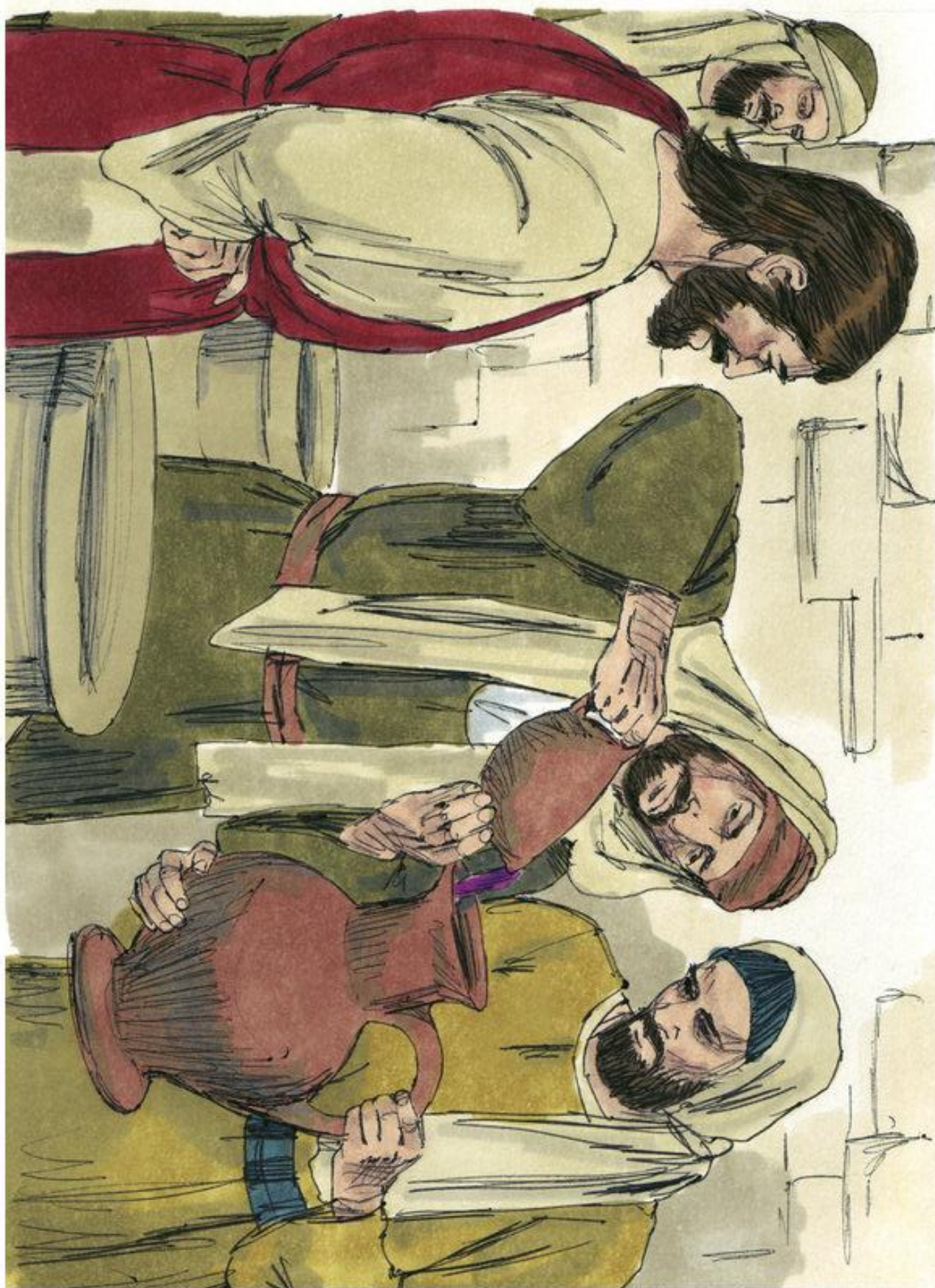
- Trace six cardboard pots on the back of wallpaper. Cut out. Glue to large piece of paper. Laminate for a place mat. For younger students, number the pots 1–6. Students count pots or put in numerical order.
- Write the verse, “Do whatever Jesus tells you” (John 2:5), on a white piece of paper with a white crayon. Then, scribble over it with a watercolor marker or watercolor paint. Instantly, the verse can be seen. (Mission Arlington).

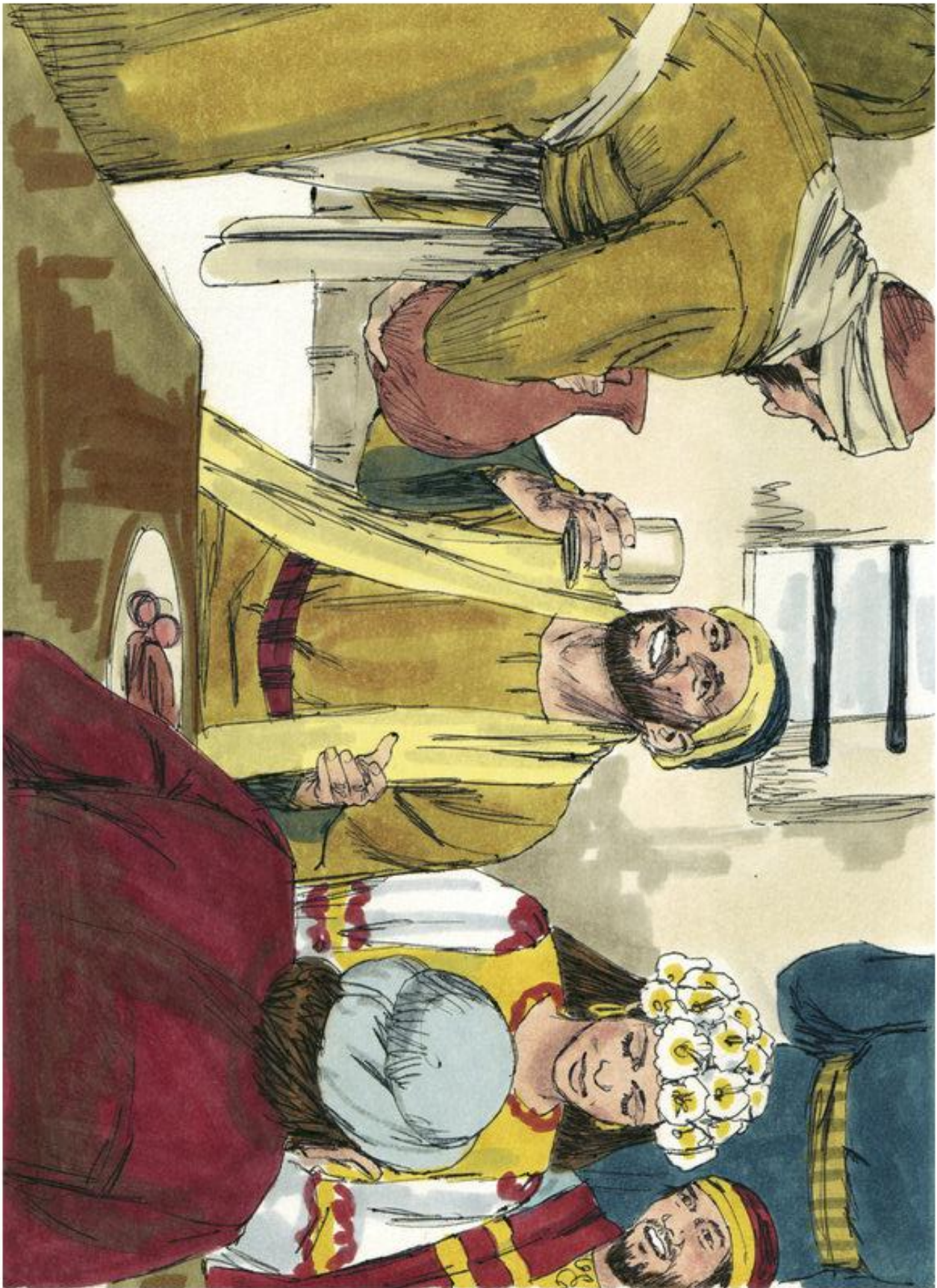
Memory Verse[s]:

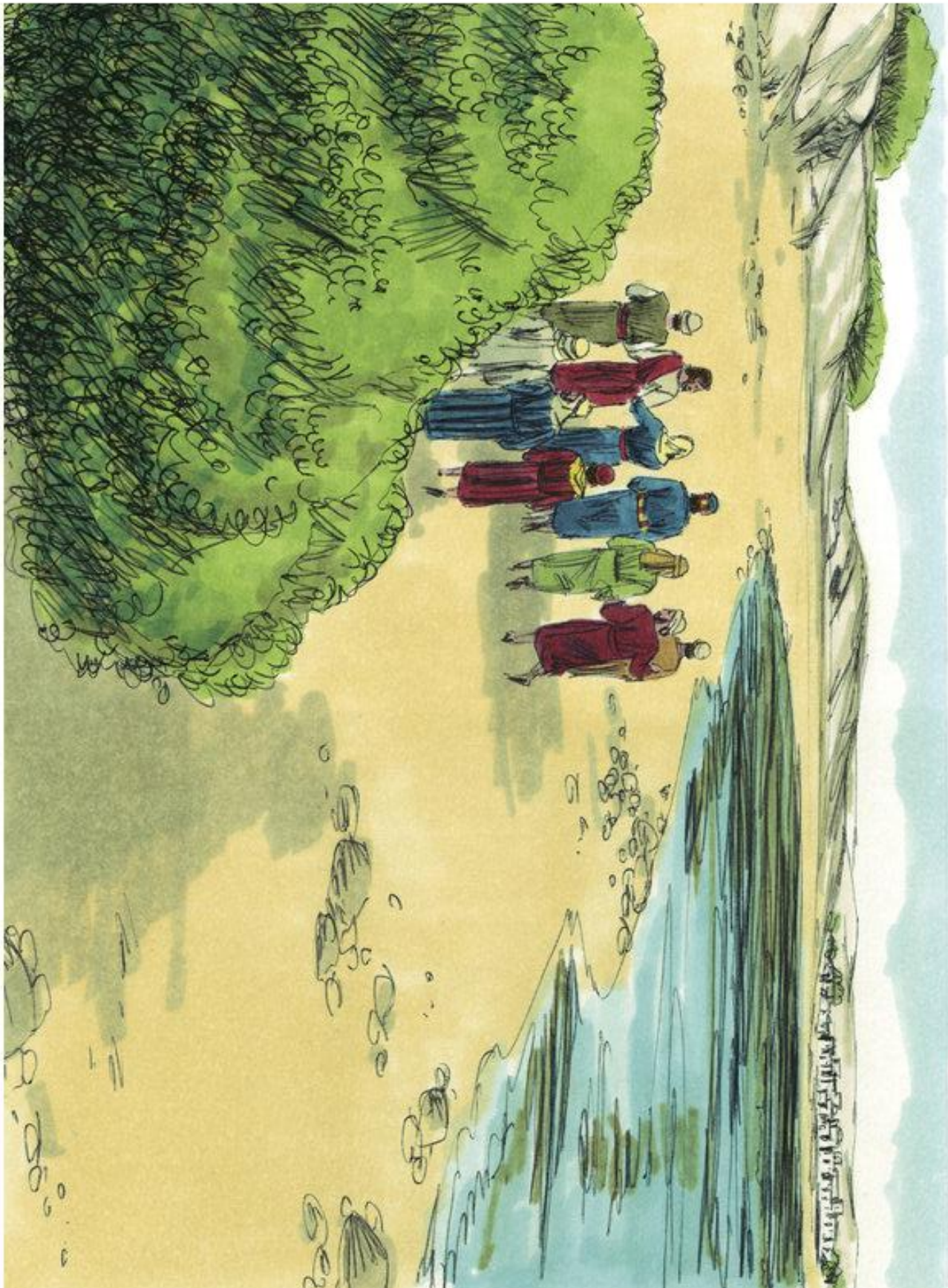
- John 2:5—“Do whatever He tells you.”
- John 1:1–14:
 - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
 - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
 - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
 - 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
 - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
 - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
 - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
 - 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



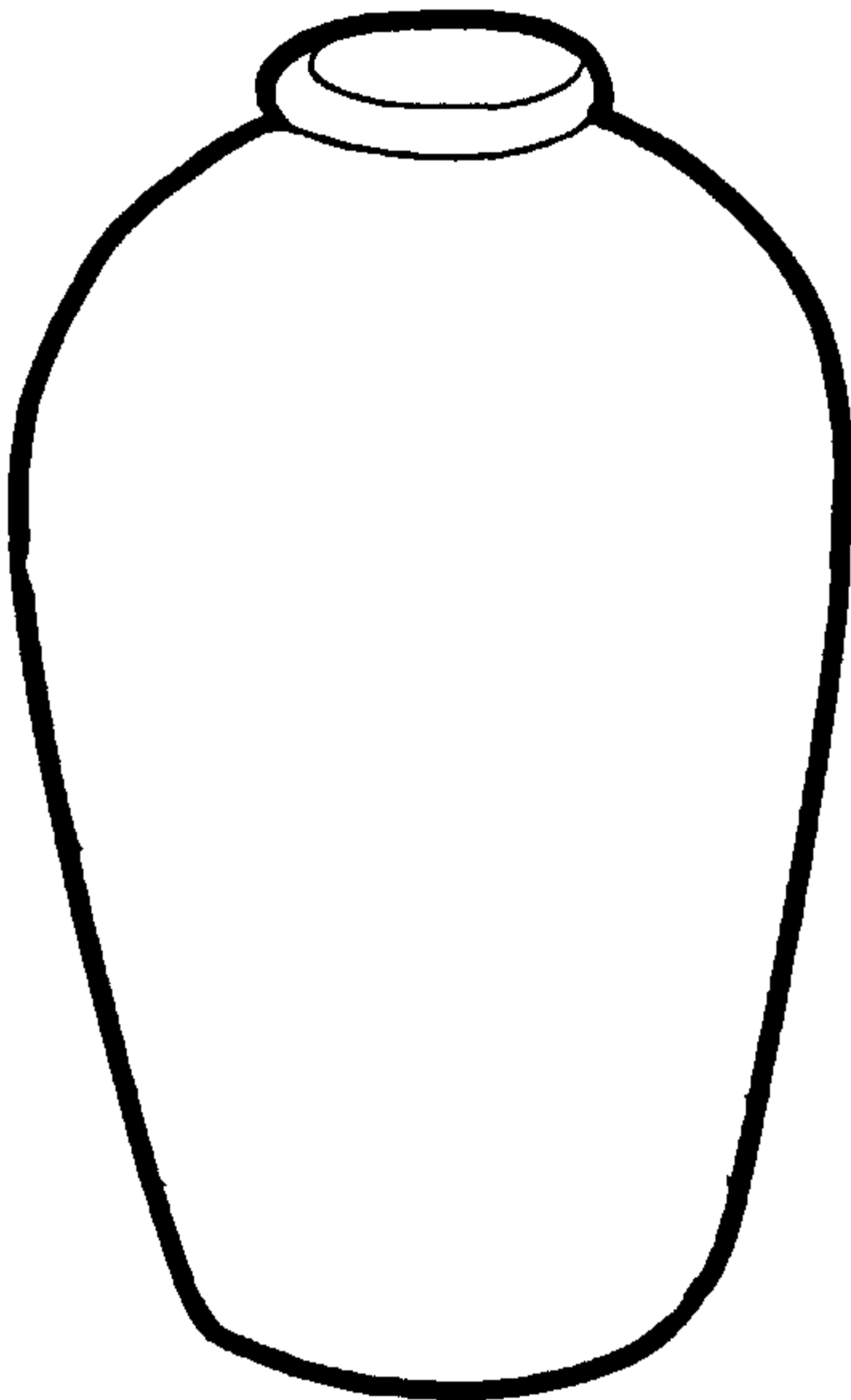


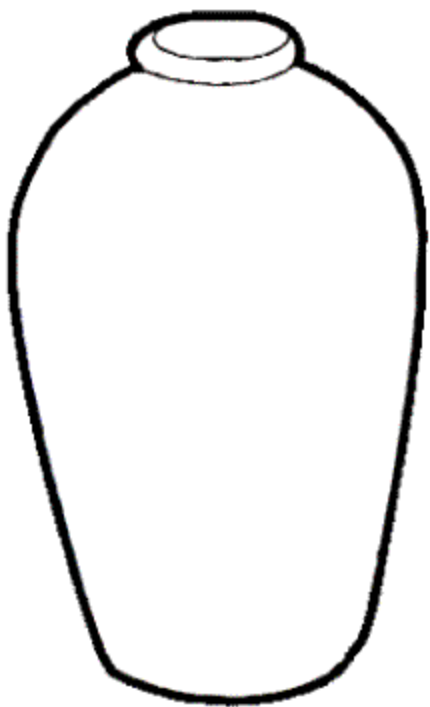
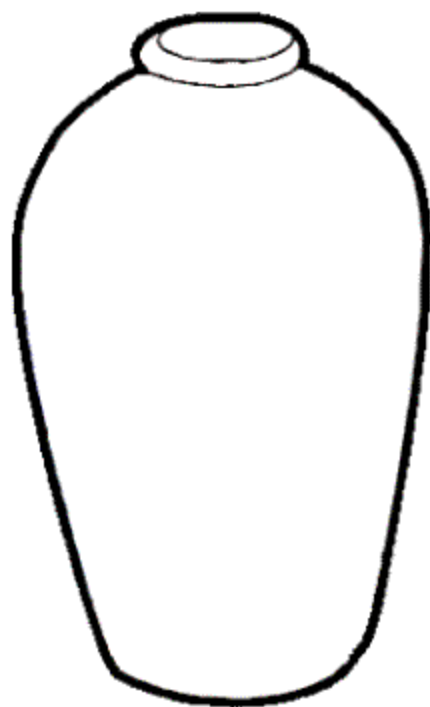












28.16

Water to Wine

Marilyn Alexander

Tune: "Here Comes the Bride"

Wagner

$\text{♩} = 60$

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The tempo is indicated as quarter note = 60. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. Measure numbers 4, 8, 11, and 15 are placed at the beginning of their respective staves. The score ends with a double bar line on the fifth staff.

Je - sus went to a wed - ding. The wine was all gone. His mo - ther came to
4 tell Him what was wrong. She told the ser - vants to o - bey What Je - sus told them to
8 do right a - way. They filled six huge jars with wa - ter to the brim.
11 Je - sus said, "Give to the mas - ter; give to him." Je - sus made new wine; It was the best.
15 His dis - ci - ples be - lieved in Him; Christ's glo - ry was man - i - fest.

Wine Production : Main Steps

1. Viticulture
2. Harvesting
3. Stemming/Crushing
4. Fermentation
5. Draining
6. Pressing
7. Mixing
8. Clarification
9. Aging
10. Bottling

