



Let's Act Bible Stories No.7

The Wonderful Wedding

John 2:1-11

Characters

Seth - Wine Steward
Bart - Seth's Assistant
Mary - Mother of Jesus
Jesus
Master of the Feast
Bridegroom
Bride
Guests

Author's Note

If using this play as part of an assembly, you may wish to use the introduction below. You could also invite someone to talk about a wedding they have attended – this could be a visitor asked specifically, a member of staff talking about their wedding, or a pupil telling the school about a wedding they have attended.

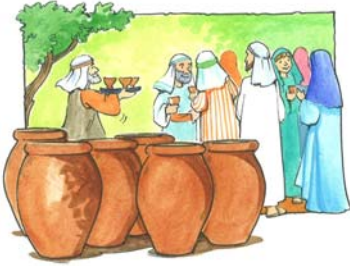
The wedding we are going to hear about today was rather different from the weddings we have just been told about. It took place in Israel. Eastern weddings are quite different to the weddings we have here. They don't take place in a church but in the bridegroom's house. The wedding is not a religious ceremony, but a noisy, joyful wedding feast. The bride and groom have already made a very serious commitment to each other around 12 months before. This is called the betrothal.

Sometimes the wedding feast takes place at night. The feast might go on for as long as seven days. The groom and his friends would process to the bride's house, carrying lit torches. She would have been very busy getting herself ready. Attendants would have helped her to put on



special clothes, including a veil. The bride and her friends would then go back with the groom and his friends, to his house.

Do you remember how long I said the wedding feast might last? It could be up to seven days, so a very important part of every wedding feast would be the food and drink! As long as the guests had plenty to eat and drink, everything was fine. It would be a disgrace if something went wrong. Well, something did go wrong at this wedding. Fortunately someone was there who was able to put things right without most people knowing anything about what had happened. You see, Jesus, his mother and his disciples were all guests at this wedding feast. The room must have been very crowded – and oh, the noise! The feast had gone very well, but Seth, the wine steward, was a very worried man, as he told his assistant, Bart. Let's find out what the problem was. Imagine ourselves now, going to a place called Cana in Galilee.



The Wonderful Wedding

Scene 1 - The Wedding Feast

Seth *(looking inside a wine jar)* I had better check the wine supply. The wedding feast has been going on for several days. Everyone has been drinking lots of wine.

(looking worried)

This jar is completely empty! I'll look inside another one.

(looking inside another jar)

Oh no! This one is empty, too!

(looking inside another jar)

What about this one? Empty. Not a drop of wine left.

(enter Bart)

Bart What's the matter, Seth? You look very upset.

Seth Bart, all these wine jars are empty. Please help me check all the others. We can't have run out of wine!

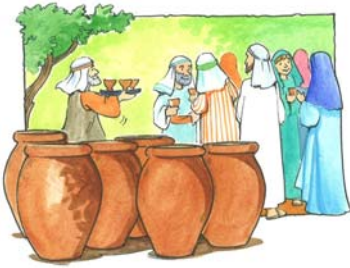
(they look in the remaining jars and then look glum)

Bart No wine in any of the jars I've looked in Seth.

Seth None in any I've checked, either. We really have run out of wine. I'm in big trouble.

Bart So am I, Seth. I'm your assistant, remember. We did our best to estimate how much wine we would need and we got it wrong! What shall we do now?

Seth I don't know. Our master will be furious when he finds out. The guests will soon be calling for more



wine. We have ruined the wedding of our master's son because we can't give them any more.

(Mary is standing close by and hears this)

Bart Who is that woman standing over there?

Seth Oh, that's Mary, one of the guests. Master invited her and her son, Jesus as well as his brothers and disciples.

Bart She's moved away now and gone to talk to Jesus.

Seth She must have heard what I said. Guests don't usually bother about us servants. Nothing can save us from this disgrace.

Bart Mary is coming over to us; Jesus is coming too.

(Mary looks at Seth and Bart)

Mary Do whatever he tells you.

Jesus *(pointing to six huge water jars)* Fill these jars with water.

Seth Yes, sir. Come on, Bart, help me to fill these jars right to their tops.

(they work, busily filling up the jars with water)

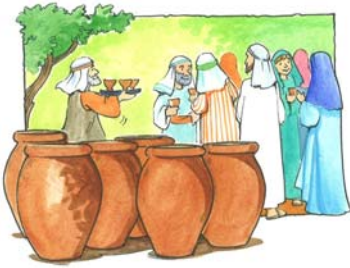
Jesus Now, draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast.

(Seth and Bart look at each other)

Seth Yes sir, whatever you say, I will do.

(Seth nervously draws some water)

Bart Steady, Seth, your hands are trembling.



Seth So would yours be, if you were doing what I am doing! There, that's filled the cup.

(Seth takes the cup to the Master of the feast)

Master Ah, Seth, you're responsible for providing the wine, aren't you?

Seth Yes sir, I've brought you something to taste.

Master Well, everyone's been drinking very well for days. I don't suppose they will mind what quality of wine you provide now. Anyway, I'll give it a test and see what it's like.

(smells the liquid)

Smells good! Fine colour too, Seth!

(puts the cup to his lips he takes a sip. His eyes open wide with astonishment)

This is excellent wine! It is the finest wine I have ever tasted!
Fetch me the bridegroom, Seth!

(Seth fetches the bridegroom)

Everyone else serves the best wine first and after the guests have had plenty to drink, serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!

Bridegroom

I don't understand what has happened. Let me taste a mouthful.

(tasting the wine)

You're quite right. This is superb wine. I have never tasted wine of this quality. Where's Seth? He's in charge of the wine supply. Where did he get it from? Has he been keeping it back 'til now as a wonderful surprise?



(Seth and Bart stay in the background)

Seth This is amazing! I'm glad I obeyed Jesus. He has turned water into wine and not any old wine either, but the very best anyone has ever tasted!

Bart He did it for us, Seth, and all the people at the feast.

Seth Yes, now we must hurry up and take the new wine around so everyone can have a taste!

(exit)

Teacher

You may wish to complete this play with the following:

What an amazing ending to a wonderful wedding! Only the servants who served the wine knew what had happened. They, Jesus' mother, and his disciples, knew Jesus had turned the water into wine. This was Jesus' first miracle. The servants filling those water pots and then taking the water turned into wine to the Master of the feast and the guests, were just doing ordinary jobs. They must have been astonished that Jesus took the trouble to help them. What about us? The servants had to trust Jesus and obey him. They believed that Jesus had done something amazing for them. Can we learn to trust Jesus in the same way?

A Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you are interested in ordinary people and the ordinary things we do everyday. Please help us to trust you and to ask you to help us when we have problems. Amen.