

The Wedding at Cana

Bonus Elements for Marriage Curriculum

Puppet Show

- Teacher:** Hi Kenny. What's up with the party hats?
- Kenny:** Oh, I gave a birthday party for my friend, Sidney.
- Teacher:** At your house?
- Kenny:** Yeah, his parents had to go away on a trip, so I gave him a party on his special day.
- Teacher:** That was nice of you and such a big responsibility.
- Kenny:** It sure was. My mom said I was the host. That means I was in charge of everything about the party.
- Teacher:** Well, how did you do? Did everything go smoothly at your event?
- Kenny:** It went pretty good. Nobody got sick, most of the food and refreshments were okay, and I only had to use one band aide.
- Teacher:** One band aide? What happened?
- Kenny:** Well, we were playing this party game, pin the tail on the donkey...
- Teacher:** Some of the boys and girls may not know about that game. It's pretty old-fashioned. Maybe you should explain it.
- Kenny:** You see, there's this big picture of a donkey taped to the wall, but the donkey doesn't have a tail. Everybody at the party gets a paper tail with a pin on it.
- Teacher:** Yes, I've played this game. When it's your turn, a blindfold is put on you and the host spins you around in a circle and then you pin the tail on the picture. Sometimes the tail ends up in silly places on the donkey like his nose or leg. Is that what happened?
- Kenny:** Pretty much. Except when it was Bobby's turn, I spun him around too many times, I think.
- Teacher:** What happened?
- Kenny:** He pinned the tail on Jason.
- Teacher:** Yikes!
- Kenny:** Yikes is right. He yelped like this. (*yelp*). But I was really trying to be a good host, so I put a band aide on his arm really quick. He was okay after that.
- Teacher:** It sounds like you handled everything pretty well. Was the rest of the party a success?

Kenny: Pretty much. Sidney is an understanding guy. He knew I had to put his party together pretty quickly.

Teacher: What did Sidney need to be understanding about?

Kenny: I didn't have a lot of time to order a real birthday cake from the bakery. I just had to buy whatever the bakery had in stock.

Teacher: Really? What did you end up with?

Kenny: It was a little funny really. The cake said, "Good luck with your retirement." But I did have birthday candles on it at least, so he was happy.

Teacher: I'm glad. It sounds like you were a pretty good host. It can be embarrassing for a host or hostess when things don't go right with the guests for the party he or she has planned.

Kenny: I'm guessing this reminds you of a Bible story, right? We are at church after all.

Teacher: Yes, it does. Today, we're going to talk about a very special party, a wedding feast, attended by Jesus, his mother, and his brand-new disciples.

Kenny: Brand new? Were the disciples little kids?

Teacher: No, that's not what I mean by brand new. What I mean is that His disciples had just been chosen by Jesus to come and follow Him. They knew early on that He was God's son, but they weren't really clear about what that meant.

Kenny: Oh, did something happen at the feast to help them know Jesus was God's son?

Teacher: It did. At the wedding feast Jesus performed His first miracle as a sign to His disciples. Do you know what a miracle is?

Kenny: Yes, I've learned about some of them. Miracles are those events that happen because of God's power.

Teacher: Right. Let's take a minute or two and see if any of the boys and girls can think of any miracles Jesus performed. *(Ask children for a response. Prompt if necessary.)*

Kenny: I remember learning about some of those. But you say the story today is about the first miracle.

Teacher: Yes, like you, it involved a host who could've suffered a lot of embarrassment because he was running out of wine for his guests. Back then, that was an expected courtesy of the host to offer.

Kenny: What happened?

Teacher: Jesus' mother, Mary, noticed the problem and told Jesus. He performed a miracle and made sure there was enough for everyone.

Kenny: Was everyone amazed?

Teacher: Actually, hardly no one knew what had happened. The host didn't even know.

Kenny: Who knew about it?

Teacher: Mary, the servants, but most importantly, His disciples knew it.

Kenny: Why do you say that's the most important thing? Jesus saved the day. The party was a success. Isn't that the most important thing?

Teacher: Not really. Parties come and go. Embarrassing things happen to all of us. It would have been terrible for the host if he had run out of food or drink at the wedding, but Jesus' disciples were going to be with Him for three years learning so much from Him. What He would be teaching them about God and His redeeming love was the most important thing.

Kenny: So that first miracle helped them to believe and trust in Him, right? That is important.

Teacher: Right. And just think back to your party for Sidney. It's true that a couple of things went wrong with the cake and all, but what was the most important thing about your party?

Kenny: I think it was to make Sidney feel special and loved.

Teacher: And you did just that. You were a good host. I'm proud of you.

Kenny: Thanks. Maybe I can be a professional party planner. I could give Ground Hog's Day parties, New Year's parties, Valentine's parties... *(Kenny exits stage area rambling on about a variety of parties.)*