

## LESSON III.—January 15, 1899

CHRIST'S FIRST MIRACLE, John 2 : 1-11

## PREVIEW THOUGHT: Christ gives Light through His words and works

**Golden Text.**—"And his disciples believed on him."—John 2 : 11.

**To-day's Lesson Thought.**—Christ brightening a feast with his light.

**Connection.**—Draw five strokes. Who were the five about whom we talked last Sabbath? Recall the lesson. Did any of you help to bring anyone to Jesus? Have you been following the Light? or did you just do things that pleased yourselves? These disciples went with Jesus from place to place. When they came to Nazareth, Jesus' home (draw a square), Jesus found Mary, His mother, had gone to a wedding party at Cana (another square), Jesus and His disciples had been invited too; so He went and took His disciples with Him.

Have you ever been at a wedding party? Did you not have a happy time? &c., &c.

**Lesson Story.**—Describe the wedding. All was mirth and happiness; the table spread for the feast, the guests eating and drinking when Jesus arrived. (Shew a model of an Eastern table or draw one, explaining the custom of reclining on cushions at the table.) What do we have to drink at our parties? (Tea, coffee, milk, lemonade.) In that country they drank the juice of the grape, wine.

It was not a strong drink and did not harm people as the wine does that is used now. Don't you think the people were glad to see Jesus? There was one thing that troubled them—there was no more wine to offer the guests. It was quite a disgrace not to have enough wine at a party. Jesus' mother knew this and she went to Jesus and told Him there was no more wine. Jesus said He knew what to do when the time came for Him to do it. She knew that Jesus was able to help, so she said to the servants, "Be ready to do whatever He tells you to do." At those feasts there were large stone water pots full of water for the guests to wash their hands (they ate with their fingers). They wore sandals (explain); so their feet got

very dusty, and they always washed them when they entered a house. (Draw a water pot or shew a model.) There were six water pots. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. They obeyed. He told them to pour it out and take it to the man who had charge of the feast.

What do you think Jesus had done? He had changed all that water into wine—enough to supply all they needed and more (His wedding present). All said it was the best wine they had had. How happy they felt! What pleasure it gave Jesus to see them happy! No one could have done this but Jesus—so we call it a *miracle*—a wonderful thing that no one can do but Jesus (or the disciples to whom He should give the power). This was Jesus' first miracle. Jesus used His



power to bring joy into a home—to brighten a feast—to give happiness, as well as to shew His power (explain), "and his disciples believed on him."

**Practical Thought.**—Would we like Jesus to come into our home? Invite Him. He will come. We shall not see Him, but His Holy Spirit will be with us all the time, making us happy and giving us all we need, if we are doing what pleases Jesus. Never do anything we would not want Jesus to see us doing. Never go any place where we would not invite Jesus. Tell Jesus all our needs. He will give what He sees best for us to have.