

Wedding at Cana

Youth Group Session Six – Session Leader

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

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Objective: To show:

- Mary's direct connection to her Son as an intercessor
- Christ's love and respect for His mother

Items in **blue** are notes for the Session Leader. For younger children read for them – you may want to paraphrase and ask questions often to keep their interest. For older children, allow them to read aloud or to themselves.

This curriculum was written to be used in conjunction with the book *The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children* by Georgia and Helen Hronas. This book is published by Light and Life and can be obtained from them at www.light-n-life.com or by calling 952-925-3888.

Related books for Session Leader's Reference:

The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children by Georgia and Helen Hronas – Light and Life Publishing.
The Incarnate God: The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary editor Catherine Aslanoff translated by Paul Meyendorff. St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2002.

Pre-session Preparation

Make needed copies of Lesson Six Handouts.

Purchase needed number of books for *The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children*

Card Stock sized 5" x 7" or a small journal that could be purchased at the dollar store

Markers

Craft – Mosaic Icon of the Theotokos and Child

This craft will be worked on at each session. It is labor intensive but is extremely beautiful and will stay with the youth for their entire lives. See the attached explanation for the craft.

Session

Begin the session in prayer.

The Wedding at Cana

So far we have learned about the life of Mary from the annunciation of her birth to her death. We have shared in the witness of her holy, pure, and humble life. We have also seen how her son, Jesus Christ – honored and loved her. Today we are going to learn of another event in the life of Jesus and His Mother Mary that shows his love and respect for her.

Read pages 33-35. Mary and Jesus were at what kind of happy event? **A wedding**

What happened at the wedding? **They ran out of wine to drink.**

What did Mary do? [Asked Jesus to help.](#)

Jesus answered His mother by saying, “What do you wish for me to do? It is not yet my time to be revealed.” What do you think Jesus meant by this?

Up until this point, Jesus had not given any clues or indication to anyone that he was the Son of God. He knew that it was not the right time to show that he is the Son of God. He knew that performing a miracle for all to see would confuse people. Yet, he loved and wanted to honor His mother. So he chose to help in a way that would not reveal His true identity to the people.

What did he do? [He turned six jugs of plain water into wine.](#)

How did he protect the fact that it was a miracle? [Only the servants saw what happened and even they did not fully understand how it happened.](#)

Discuss how at breakfast, they pulled out the same water jars they always use and that it looked like water inside but when they tasted it – it was a surprise. How did they feel? Did they figure out quickly what had happened? Did any of them guess why the water had been switched? How can they apply this to what happened at Cana?

This was Jesus’ first miracle and it was performed at the request of His mother. Because of this great miracle, we know that the Mother of God intercedes with her son for those in need and distress. We also know that in His mercy He will help those that Mary asks Him to help.

Intercede. Do you know what that word means? [To intercede means to act for someone else.](#) Have you ever had a friend who needed help but didn’t know what to do, so you went to their parents, your parents or a friend to find more help for that person? Can you think of ways that we intercede for people all the time? [Charities](#)

Charities are a good example of interceding for people who need help. Charities raise money, awareness, find needed items, give help in many ways to people that need help and can’t find what they need on their own.

Intercessory Prayer

Knowing that everyone in the world needs God's help, we add our prayers to theirs. If God hears each one of us, imagine how He hears a whole group of us praying for the same person! We also pray for others because they may not be able to pray for themselves. We pray for the departed, asking God to give them good rest and forgiveness. We pray for our enemies because only God knows what is in their hearts and we don't want their hatred of us to bring them to further sin. We pray for those we love when they are in need or distress.

When we pray for others who we know, we should pray for them by name. Remember, God knows each of them, too.

Mary intercedes for us every day. She prays to her Son, that He may have mercy on our souls. Mary is the greatest hope we have in reaching the ears of her son.

Pass out the card stock and markers. Tell the participants they will be creating in Intercessory Prayer List. They should place the names of people for whom they wish to intercede. At the top of the card they can write: "O Holy Birth-Giver of God intercede for the Lord's servant/s...." They may use the markers to illuminate (decorate) the prayer cards.

Wrap up the lesson and review what was discussed.

At this time you may do any of the following:

- Have a short discussion time about the material or for teenagers an open Q & A.
- Review and discuss the icon of the Wedding at Cana
- Present a copy of the icon of the Wedding at Cana to each participant
- Give time for a snack and short break for the participants to play games
- Move right into the next activity
- End the session in prayer to the Theotokos, "Hail Mary Full of Grace". This prayer should be used for the remainder of the lessons.
- Add their worksheet to their worksheet binder

Have the participants use the remaining time to work on their mosaic icons.