

LESSON 22

Jesus Walks on Water

MATTHEW 14:25-34



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD WHO SAVES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: basin of water; various small objects to test to see whether they float or sink

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 100)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 22—one for each child; markers or crayons

Walking on Water

SUPPLIES: large washbasin filled with water; a large towel

All Who Touched Him Were Healed

SUPPLIES: large robe or sheet to serve as a cloak

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn the story of when Jesus walked on water.

Bring a small basin of water to class, along with some small random objects to see whether they sink or float. Hold up the objects one by one and ask the children if they will float. Then place them, one at a time, in the water for the class to see.

Ask the children if a person would float or sink? (They might say that a person can float, but then ask them if they can float if they don't swim.)

Tell the children that they will learn about how Jesus walked on the water. Explain that if something is lighter than water it floats. But Jesus—who was not lighter than water—was able to walk on the water. This was a miracle. Tell them that when Peter saw Jesus walk on water he wanted to walk on water too. Then ask them if they think Peter sank or floated? Don't give them the correct answer; tell them they should listen carefully to the story to find out.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 100, "Jesus Walks on Water," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What frightened the disciples in the boat?**
(*Jesus, in the middle of a storm, came to them walking on the water.*)
- **Why did they think Jesus was a ghost?**
(*They could see that it was Jesus, but they still did not understand that Jesus was God and all-powerful over the earth.*)
- **What did they do when Jesus climbed into the boat?**
(*They worshiped Jesus as God.*)

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus was no ordinary man. He was more than a great teacher: Jesus was, and is, God. When the disciples in the boat saw Jesus walk on the stormy waves, they worshiped him as God. Little did they know that this same Jesus, who had power over the wind and the waves, who could walk on water and heal all the sicknesses of those who came to him, would soon die on the cross for their sins.

If Jesus had not been God, he should have rebuked the disciples for worshiping him. But Jesus did not correct them. There, in the middle of the sea, Jesus received the worship of the disciples.

In this story, Peter cried out, "Lord, save me." His words were more profound than he could realize. Our own sin separates us from God. We need to cry out with those same words: "Lord, save me." As he did with Peter, the Lord extends his hand to save and deliver us safely to the shore of heaven.

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Who here knows how to swim? Who is afraid of water?**
(Some children will know how to swim and some won't. Let them tell you about their experiences.)
- **Can anyone here walk on water? Why not?**
(Of course, the children should answer that no one can walk on water. Without getting into the science in detail, just tell them that all people normally sink.)
- **If people can't walk on water, how did Jesus do it?**
(Listen to their answers and ultimately share with them that, as God, Jesus controls all things, even water.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN**Coloring Activity****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 22—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why was Peter afraid?**
(Peter was afraid because he was sinking.)
- **What did Peter say when he called out to Jesus?**
(“Lord, save me.”)
- **What did Jesus do to save Peter?**
(Jesus reached out his hand and then corrected Peter because he doubted and did not believe.)

Walking on Water**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ large washbasin
- ✓ water
- ✓ large towel

Fill the basin with water and place it on the towel. Ask for a volunteer to walk on the water. Explain that you are convinced that children are light enough to do this. Have the volunteer take off shoes and socks and stand on the towel next to the basin. Explain that when he steps into the basin you don’t want him to touch the bottom with his feet.

Of course, he will not be able to do this. Give a few more volunteers a turn. Act confused and wonder aloud how Jesus could do this. Ask the children to help you

understand. The answer you are looking for is that Jesus was no ordinary man; he was God. In fact, the disciples realized this in a special way that day as well. After Jesus walked on the water and came aboard the boat, Matthew tells us that they “worshiped him.” Explain to the children that the Son of God came down to earth as a man so that he could take the punishment that we deserved for our sins. That way we could be forgiven.

All Who Touched Him Were Healed

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large robe or sheet to serve as a cloak

After the boat landed, the Bible tells us that people brought their sick to Jesus and that all who touched him were healed. Have the children pretend to be the people on the shore coming to Jesus with different ailments. One could pretend to be crippled, another blind. Have one of the teachers play Jesus by putting the cloak on and sitting in a chair. Have the sick children walk by and as soon as they touch the cloak act out their healing with praise.

After everyone has finished, talk about Jesus’ power to save us from our sickness and then transition to how Jesus through his death saves us from our sin.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

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