

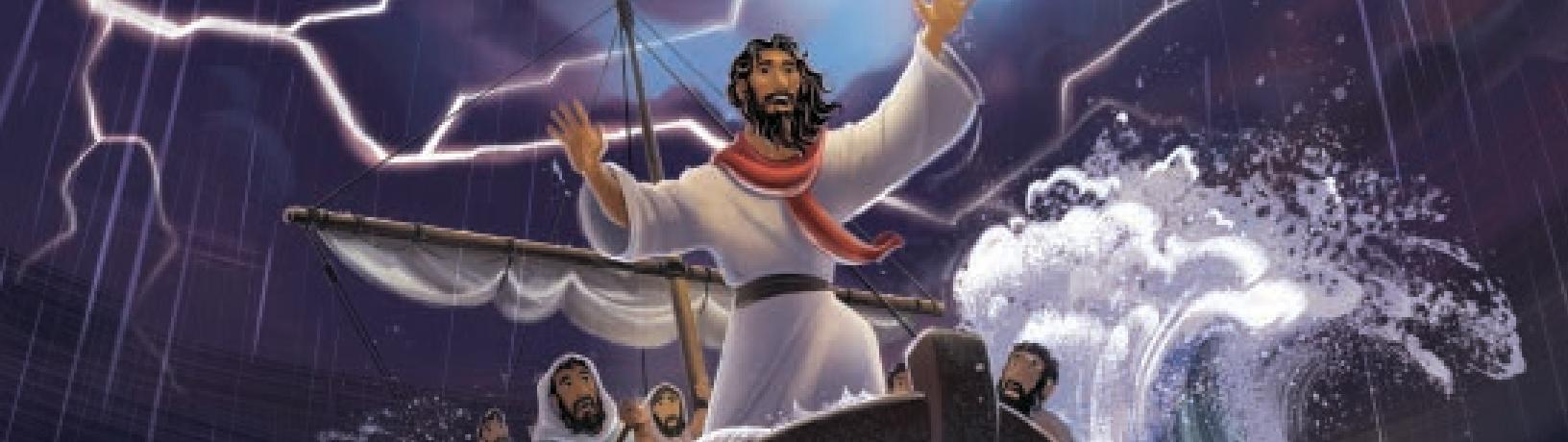
VOLUME 8 SUGGESTED THEMES

Unit 22: The Miracles of Jesus

Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Theme Idea: Optometrist Office: This unit is about seeing Jesus clearly for who He is: both fully God and fully human. We'll connect this truth with physical sight and take a visit to an optometrist's office for these five sessions. Help kids understand that the miracles that Jesus performed during His earthly ministry made it clear that He is the Son of God. Decorate for this unit using fake glasses frames, an eye chart, and a sign for your practice.

- Session 1: A new patient comes in and is put through eye tests. He can tell that the chart has letters, but isn't able to make out what the specific letters are. Connect this to how the disciples knew that Jesus was a good teacher, but that Jesus made it clear that He is Lord through calming the storm.
- Session 2: A patient picks up her new glasses and is amazed when she's able to see clearly! Connect this to how much greater it was for Jesus to forgive sins rather than simply physically heal the man lying on the mat.
- Session 3: A patient enters and explains that even though he has been wearing glasses, he isn't able to see at all. After an examination, the doctor realizes that the patient has been wearing the wrong prescription. Tie this to the truth that we can't just put our faith in anyone. We have to put our faith in the right person, Jesus, like the bleeding woman and Jairus.
- Session 4: The office is doing a food drive. They are asking the patients to bring in canned food to donate when they come for their appointments. Tie this to how Jesus cared for the physical needs of the crowd.
- Session 5: The optometrist is taking a trip, but she is leaving another doctor in her place who will take care of the patients. Connect this to how Jesus told His disciples that He was going away, but He would leave the Holy Spirit to comfort them.



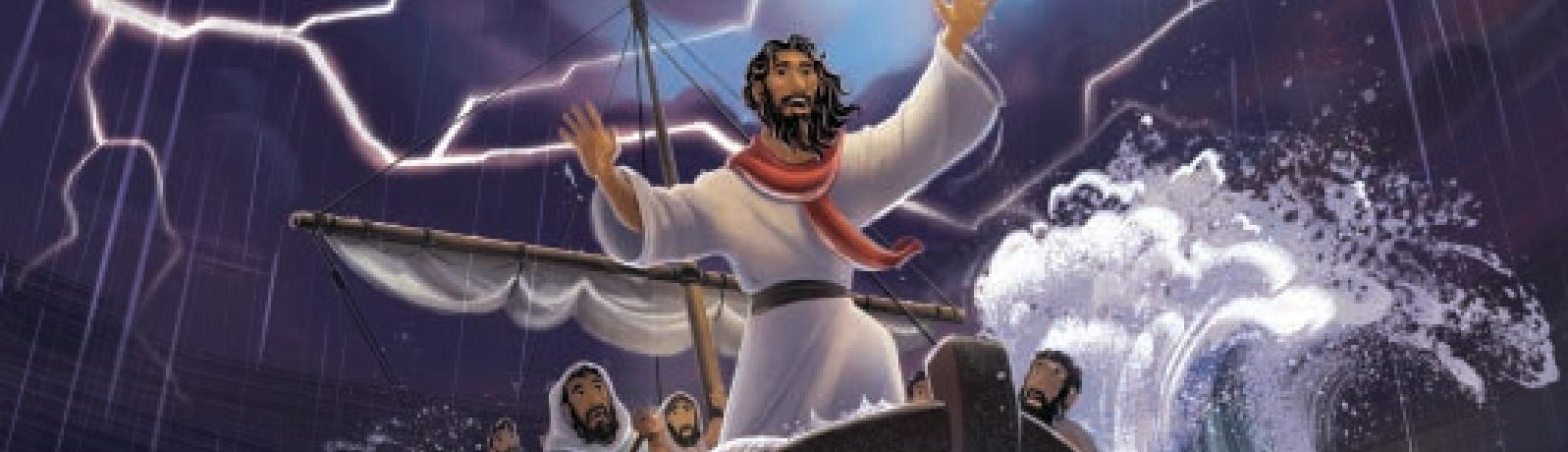
VOLUME 8 SUGGESTED THEMES

Unit 23: The Teachings of Jesus

What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

Theme Idea: Astronaut Training Facility: We will be visiting an Astronaut Training facility as we learn about many of Jesus' teachings. The astronauts will learn from their trainer, much like we learn from Jesus. Decorate for this theme using a solar system model, space posters, and pretend astronaut helmets.

- Session 1: The astronauts are in the classroom and are being introduced to a code of conduct and how they should act as an astronaut. Connect this to Jesus teaching what it means to follow Him.
- Session 2: One of the astronauts is trying to prove himself by answering all of the questions and interjecting himself into every conversation. The instructor pulls him aside and reminds him that he is already an astronaut, he doesn't have to earn his position. Tie this to how believers live to honor God not to earn His favor, but because they have already it.
- Session 3: Today the astronauts are studying the solar system, but the one of the planets from the model has been lost. The trainer is looking all over for it. Once he finally finds it, he is excited and class can continue. Connect this to the parables of the lost items in today's story and how it was important to each person to find their lost item before continuing on.
- Session 4: The trainer is teaching the astronauts about their destination. He is describing it in great detail and talking about how amazing it will be. It will be worth all of the effort they are putting into training. Connect this to Jesus' teachings on the kingdom of heaven and how it is valuable.
- Session 5: During this training session, the astronauts will be trying on the spacesuits for their mission. Connect this to the parable of the wedding guest who was invited to the celebration, but did not wear the proper clothes.



VOLUME 8 SUGGESTED THEMES

Unit 24: The Rejection of Jesus

Why do people reject Jesus? People reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.

Theme Idea: The Fantastic Race: Kids will get a close up look at a team participating in a reality show called The Fantastic Race. This show takes teams all around the world as they take part in challenges that are both mentally and physically grueling. Decorate for this challenge using a world map and a score board.

- Session 1: The group is starting off on their race. They are all sharing different ideas of how to approach the start of the journey. There are lots of different opinions and they are all speaking over each other. Finally, one of the team members realizes they need to focus on the map they have been given, rather than try every single idea. Connect this to how Jesus told the people to focus on entering God's kingdom, because it is like a narrow door.
- Session 2: The team is on the second leg of their race and they have been struggling. They are in last place, they want to give up. But then something unexpected happens! They win the challenge and pull through to first place. Tie this to how Mary and Martha were sad that their brother had died, but then Jesus unexpectedly brought him back to life.
- Session 3: This is the final challenge of The Fantastic Race. The team is prepared! They can lead the kids through a silly stretching and warm-up routine that they do before every challenge to get ready. Connect this to how Paul commands believers to be prepared to fight the battle against evil by putting on the full armor of God.