

Peter's Faith

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 8:27-38

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 15

Lesson Focus
Jesus is our Savior.



Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Kids explore story elements by decorating tubes for sharing God's Word, using their fingers to travel through sand pans, and tracing their hands to make a dove.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Cardboard tubes, crayons or markers, paper, shallow pans, sand, wooden blocks

Circle Time

Kids welcome each other with a name game and discuss questions related to Peter's Faith.

None

None

Prayer Time

Kids repeat the leader's words as they pray.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Peter's Faith Storytelling

Kids act like Peter or Jesus during the story of Peter's Faith.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

What Does Peter Think?

Kids use stickers and coloring to complete the story picture.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

Crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Learning about Jesus Kids circle or star pictures that show ways they learn about Jesus.	Leaflets	Crayons
My Jesus Scrapbook Kids use stickers and pictures to decorate a scrapbook page to tell about Jesus.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers (baby Jesus, crosses, Jesus and child stickers)	Crayons or markers
Growing in Faith Kids explore faith growth in Pentecost with an action song about Jesus.	None	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids do a quick review of the lesson and say a rhyme with actions to close.	Leaflets	None
Prayer Time Kids repeat the leader's words and actions in a prayer.	Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Before kids arrive, set the supplies out on three open work areas: one area with cardboard tubes, crayons and markers, and paper. One with shallow pans, sand, and blocks. Another with paper, crayons or markers, and kid-friendly scissors. As kids enter, introduce them to elements of the story of Peter's Faith with the following activity options. Explain that in the Bible, some of the people who talked about Jesus with others were Jesus' disciples. Invite kids to decorate the tubes and use them to be disciples. They can speak through their tubes to tell about Jesus and God. Kids may also want to draw pictures of Jesus, roll them up, and deliver them to others in the tubes. **What do you think the disciples told people about God and Jesus?** Put a layer of sand in the pan and place it on a sturdy surface. Encourage the kids to place blocks in the pan to represent different towns or structures. Then kids can "walk" fingers through the sand to travel from town to town. **Imagine what traveling with Jesus might have been like.**

During the season of Pentecost, we learn how the Holy Spirit helps us grow in faith. Invite the kids to work with partners to draw a dove, a symbol for the Holy Spirit. Show them how to trace each other's hands with thumbs overlapping to form the body and wings of the dove. They can use crayons to add additional features, such as a beak and tail. Provide copies of the downloadable Coloring Page or this lesson for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

When everyone has had a chance to play, ask kids to put away the Play Time materials. As they do, say this rhyme to encourage kids to join you for Circle Time. Repeat the rhyme several times, inviting kids to join in as they are able.

**We've tried something new,
We haven't done before.
Please come join us now.
Let's learn something more.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Cardboard tubes
Crayons or markers
Paper
Shallow pans
Sand
Wooden blocks

Circle Time

When everyone has joined the circle, you may begin. **Welcome, everyone. I'm so glad you are here at Sunday school today. Let's start by seeing who's here today!**

Spark Resources
None

Welcome each kid by using this format: **We're glad you're here today; tell us your name today.**

Supplies
None

Each kid responds by saying his or her name. The whole group responds with:
Hi, _____!

Start with one person in the circle and continue around, making sure everyone gets a turn. Don't forget to include yourself.

During Play Time today, some of you were disciples, who were busy telling other people about Jesus. What things did you tell? Allow time for responses. Raise your hand if you pretended to travel in the sand pans. What kinds of things did you talk about while you were traveling? (Where we were going, whose turn it was to lead, etc.) Who made a dove, a reminder of the Holy Spirit who is always with us? In today's Bible story, Jesus and his disciples are traveling together when Jesus asks a question. We'll have to listen carefully during our Bible story to hear the question and the answer!

Prayer Time

Before we begin our story, let's pray together. Repeat each line after me.

Spark Resources
None

**Dear God,
Thank you for loving me,
And sending Jesus,
To be my Savior.
Amen.**

Supplies
None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Peter's Faith Storytelling

It's time for the Bible story called Peter's Faith. Hand out Spark Story Bibles and help kids find the story on page 322. **Jesus asks his disciples a question in the story. Follow along as I read the story to find out what the question and answer are. Then keep your Bibles handy while we retell the story together, but be ready to move a bit, too.** Read the story.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Point to the picture for the story of Peter's Faith. **I need your help to tell the story one more time. Everyone gets to choose if they want to be Jesus in the story or**

Peter. Point to the illustrations of each as you say their name. Peter is the character to the left of Jesus. Allow time for kids to decide which character they would like to be. Take a quick survey to make sure that you have at least a couple kids playing each role. **When you hear that your person is speaking join in with me.** Read the story, highlighting these phrases.

- Jesus asked "Who do people think I am?" (*Jesus puts hands up, questioningly.*)
- "... John or the prophet Elijah!" (*Peter says, "John" or "Elijah."*)
- "But who do you think I am?" (*Jesus points to Peter.*)
- "You're the one God sent to save the world!" (*Peter says, "You're the one!"*)
- ... how he would die and come alive again. (*Jesus talks and nods.*)
- "That's not how it's supposed to happen!" (*Peter stamps foot and looks angry.*)
- "This is God's plan!" (*Jesus points up.*)
- ... and many people followed. (*Jesus walks, Peter follows.*)

Ask kids to answer the following questions. **What did Jesus ask Peter?** ("Who do you think I am?") **What did Peter say?** ("You're the one God sent to save the world!") **Peter got angry when Jesus talked about dying and living again. If you were Peter, would you have gotten angry? Why?** (Yes, because I wouldn't want my friend to die! No, because Jesus was following God's plan.) **In the Bible story today, Jesus is saying that he is our Savior! He died so that we could all live with him in heaven some day.**

Let's take a look at our leaflets now and find out more about Peter's Faith.

What Does Peter Think?

Gather the kids at a table or work area and hand out the leaflets, one per child.

Look at the people in this picture on the front of your leaflet. Who are they? (*Peter, Jesus, others.*)

In the story of Peter's Faith we just read, what did Jesus ask his followers? (*who they thought he was, who other people thought he was*) **Who did Peter say Jesus was?** (*The one God sent to save the world!*) **That's right! Peter knew that Jesus was the Savior—the one who was sent to save everyone. Because Jesus died, we all get to live with him in heaven. Jesus is our Savior! Let's put a sticker with those words on it in the talk bubble next to Peter.** Give each child a rectangle sticker to place in the speech bubble.

I wonder what Peter was thinking when he said those words. Allow time for wondering and various responses. As time allows, you can distribute crayons and allow the kids to add additional followers to the crowd behind Jesus.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Learning about Jesus?

Direct kids' attention to the photos of Jesus on the back of the leaflet.

Peter and the other disciples learned all about Jesus by listening to his stories and talking with other people. Peter knew a lot about Jesus. Today we learned that Peter knew that Jesus is our Savior.

How do you learn about Jesus? Allow time for kids to share their thoughts. When an idea is mentioned that is pictured on the leaflet, point it out. **Look! There's a picture of that on our leaflet. Let's put a circle around it or put a star next to it to show that it's a way that we learn about Jesus.** Distribute the crayons and invite kids to do so.

Continue in this manner with all three of the pictures shown in the activity. **We learn about Jesus in so many ways!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Crayons

My Jesus Scrapbook

Have you ever seen a scrapbook? Do any of you have scrapbooks? Allow time for kids to respond. **Scrapbooks are collections of pictures and things that tell a story about a person. If Jesus had a scrapbook, I wonder what it would look like.** Allow a bit of time for imagining possibilities.

Distribute the three circle stickers for this lesson, one of each per kid, and hand out crayons or markers. **Let's use these supplies to create a scrapbook page about Jesus.**

Take time to look at each sticker. Hold up the sticker of baby Jesus. **What does this sticker tell about Jesus?** (*He came into this world as a baby, he's just like us, etc.*) Invite kids to add the sticker to the scrapbook page. Next, hold up the sticker of Jesus and the child. **What does this sticker tell about Jesus?** (*He loves children, he takes time to talk with children, etc.*) Invite kids to add the sticker to the scrapbook page. Finally, hold up the sticker with the three crosses. **What does this sticker tell about Jesus?** (*Jesus died for us, Jesus is our Savior*). **In today's story, disciple Peter was excited to tell everyone that Jesus is our Savior! This sticker can help us remember that.**

Give kids time to use the crayons or markers to add more pictures to tell the story of Jesus. Encourage individual creativity.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Previous lessons' Leaflets

Lesson Stickers (baby Jesus, crosses, Jesus and child stickers)

Supplies

Crayons or markers

Growing in Faith

Gather the kids together in a circle on the floor. Hold up the lesson leaflet, pointing to the seasonal icon on the front. **We are in a season at church called Pentecost. During the season of Pentecost, we talk about how our faith grows. Your faith has grown as you've learned more about Jesus. What are some things we know about Jesus?** Allow time for kids to respond, praising and affirming their answers. **What is something we learned about today?** (*Jesus is our Savior.*) **Every time we learn something new about Jesus, our faith grows—a little bit like a plant! Let's act like a growing plant and make up a song about Jesus.**

Invite the kids to stand, and begin the song by having kids crouch like a seed. Sing or chant something about Jesus using a low note. Sing or chant the next thing about Jesus on a higher note while the kids use their bodies to “grow” into a seedling. Continue in this manner, singing higher and growing taller, until you are in “full bloom.” Use statements about Jesus from the kids or the examples below.

Jesus was born in a stable. (*Kids crouch like seeds.*)

Jesus went to the temple when he was 12. (*Kids grow slightly as a seedling.*)

Jesus taught people about God. (*Kids keep growing.*)

Jesus healed many people. (*Kids grow into a full plant.*)

Jesus is the Savior of all! (*Kids stretch with hands out in full bloom.*)

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

In the story of Peter's Faith, we learned that Jesus is our Savior. When you take your leaflet home, look with your family at the Faith on the Go! idea. There's a game you can play that will help everyone in your family learn more about who Jesus is!

Before we leave today, let's think about our time together. Have kids echo your words and actions.

It's time to say, "Good-bye." (*wave*)

We've all learned something new. (*point to head*)

We'll keep growing in our faith (*slowly lift hands*)

In everything we do! (*spread arms wide*)

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to try a different prayer posture today by holding hands in a circle.

Let's close our time together with a prayer. I'll say a line and you say it after me.

Dear God,

Thank you for helping me learn

That Jesus is my Savior!

Help me

Tell others about Jesus.

Amen.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

None