

Peter's Faith

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 8:27-38

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 15

Lesson Focus
**Jesus is the
Messiah I need.**

Bible Memory Verse
**If any want to become my
followers, let them deny
themselves and take up
their cross and follow me.
Mark 8:34b**



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids share high and low points from the previous week.	Activity Pages 	Pencils
Opening Conversation Kids contemplate why life isn't easy.	Leaflets	Note cards, pencils or pens
Opening Prayer Kids pray for one another.	None	None

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Peter's Faith Story Kids dig into the Bible story.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils
Your Messiah Kids brainstorm about what kind of Messiah they'd like.	None	Mural paper, markers
What about Peter? Kids explore their Bibles to learn about how Peter's faith led him.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils
Remember It Kids memorize the Bible Memory Verse (BMV) and place an I Memorized It sticker in their Bibles.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
What Time Is It? Kids begin to understand the church year calendar.	Leaflets	None
Take Up Your Cross Kids make a cross and write the BMV on it.	None	Small pieces of wood (craft sticks, toothpicks, chopsticks, twigs), scissors, twine or hot glue gun, markers
God with Us Kids identify traits of people who help them.	Leaflets	Pencils

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids are challenged to learn more about types of crosses.	Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids pray with the teacher.	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: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

Ask kids to think about the week and decide what was their low point and their high point. Invite each kid to share these points with the group, laying on the floor as they talk about their low point and standing up tall when they talk about their high point.

How did it feel to lay on the floor as you talked about your low point? What low points and high points of the class surprised you? Overall, would you say you were up or down this week?

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Pencils

Opening Conversation

Ask for a volunteer to hand out one note card and a pencil or pen to each kid.

Pretend you've received a message from a space alien kid. He has asked you what is hard or scary for a kid on planet Earth. You can only write a short message that fits on this note card. Invite them to share their messages with the class.

What do you think a space alien kid would find most shocking about life on Earth? What do you think it would find most interesting? Do you think the adults in your life understand what it is like to be a kid? Why or why not?

Distribute the leaflets and consider the images on the first page and Did You Know? on the second page of the leaflet as you discuss the Life Question: Shouldn't life be easier? Then ask kids to find Scary Stuff on the second page. Ask a volunteer to read the paragraphs and then have each kid list three things that scare them and three things that would make life easier.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Note cards

Pencils or pens

Opening Prayer

Stand in a circle. Put your right hand on the shoulder of the person standing to your right.

God, help (name) see you in family, friends, and neighbors. Amen.

Instruct that kid to do the same thing to the person to his or her right. Repeat until everyone has been prayed for.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

Peter's Faith Story

Pass out Spark Bibles and help kids find Mark 8:27-38 on page 1110. Ask a volunteer to read the passage. Encourage kids to place an I Read It sticker in their Bible. Read the Know It! and Think about It! questions on the bottom of page 1110 and ask kids to answer them.

Ask another volunteer to read The Expected Messiah on the third page of the leaflet. Invite kids to work in pairs as they complete the matching exercise.

Answer Key

Rome ruled the land. A king

People were worshipping other gods. A high priest

Widows and orphans were poor and oppressed. A leader

People were sinners. A prophet

People were sick and dying. A healer

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Why do you think the people had different expectations? (Accept any answers

offered. Focus on how the expectations came from different life situations and what

people thought would make life easier or better.)

If Jesus had been one of these

kinds of Messiah do you think we'd know about him today? (Maybe, but he would

have accomplished what the people wanted and not what God wanted.)

Your Messiah

Draw a life-size shape of a person on mural paper and hang it up in your classroom.

Have markers available. **Based on the list of things that would make your life**

easier, what might you expect from a Messiah? (Answers will vary but may include things like makes me popular, eliminates homework, makes me a better basketball player, and keeps my little sister quiet.)

Invite kids to write the expectations on the mural paper.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Mural paper

Markers

Give kids time to reflect on all the ideas. **It would certainly make our lives easier if this is what Jesus did for us. But, just like the people in Jesus' time, there is a difference between the Messiah we want and the Messiah we need.**

Why do you think God made Jesus an unexpected Messiah? (Because God sent the Messiah we need.)

Why didn't the people in Jesus' day want Jesus to suffer and die? (Because he couldn't be the Messiah they wanted if he died.)

What kind of Messiah did God send? (One who would be with us when life isn't easy and who would see that our sins were forgiven.)

What about Peter?

Invite kids to find Look It Up! on the third page of the leaflet. **We are going to explore what happened to Peter after this passage. What did he learn here and how did his faith lead him?** Have kids look up the passages and place I Looked It Up stickers by each. They can also make notes or draw in the margins.

- Matthew 16:13-20 on page 1078: This is Matthew's version of the passage we are studying from Mark. Note that Jesus tells Peter that he is the rock upon which he will build the church.
- Mark 14:66-72 on page 1122: Peter, fearing for his life, denies he knows Jesus.
- John 21:15-19 on pages 1200-1201: Jesus appears to Simon Peter and a few other disciples after his death. He tells Simon Peter that he must "feed my sheep." Jesus also warns that in following him "someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not want to go."
- Acts 5:12-16 on page 1208: Peter and the other disciples do a ministry of healing. Even Peter's shadow heals.

Ask some questions about these verses after kids look them up. **Peter's faith has its ups and downs. What do you think Jesus means about building the church on Peter? Will that be an easy job for Peter? Do you think Peter is prepared to go where he does not want to go, as Jesus warns him? How does Peter have so much healing power that even his shadow can heal?** (Answers will vary. Encourage discussion.)

Invite kids to consider what it means to follow Jesus. **Even Jesus' disciples sometimes messed up and didn't follow Jesus. Do you think following Jesus is easy? Why or why not? What do you think it means to take up your cross and follow him? What are some ways that you can follow Jesus in your daily life?**

Remember It

Ask kids to look up Mark 8:34 on page 1110. They can also look at their leaflets. **The second half of this verse is today's Bible Memory Verse (BMV).** Teach these gestures to help the kids learn the BMV. Remind them that it is Jesus talking.

If any want to become my followers (point to self)
let them deny themselves (brush hands away from self)
and take up their cross (make cross with two index fingers)
and follow me. (point to self)

Once kids have memorized the verse, encourage them to put an I Memorized It sticker in their Bibles. They can also sketch a cross in the margin.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

What Time Is It?

If this is your first Sunday school class with the kids in your group, point out the leaflet color and the symbol on the front. Help them recognize that they will be able to figure out the church year season on their leaflets each week. **Look at the symbol on the leaflet. What season are we in?** (*Pentecost, sometimes called the season after Pentecost*)

Right now we're in the longest season of the church year that lasts through the seasons of summer and fall. But today's Bible story has a lot of connections to Lent and Easter. How does this passage about Peter's faith connect us with the Lenten journey to the cross? (*Jesus taught that the Son of Man would be rejected and killed. Jesus talked about losing life and about his followers taking up their cross.*) **How does it lead us toward Easter?** (*Jesus taught that the Son of Man would rise again after three days. Jesus talked about coming in the glory of his Father with holy angels.*)

Take Up Your Cross

Jesus told the crowd to take up their cross. These words help us remember Jesus' sacrifice for us because he loved us so much that he died for us. Let's make our own crosses to help remind us that Jesus is our Messiah—the Messiah we need. Instruct kids to create a cross of their own design using the wooden materials. They can tie the pieces together with twine, or you can supervise use of the hot glue gun to attach the pieces together. On this cross, they can write the BMV with a fine-tipped marker.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Small pieces of wood
(craft sticks, toothpicks,
chopsticks, twigs)
Scissors
Twine or hot glue gun
Markers

God with Us

Ask a volunteer to read God with Us on the fourth page of the leaflet. Give them a minute to underline three words that describe helpful people and make crosses beside three words that describe Jesus. Discuss the words they selected.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Ask a volunteer to read Faith on the Go! on the back of the leaflet. Then look at the crosses that are pictured. **We made our own crosses today. You can learn a little more about one of these crosses during the week.**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Closing Prayer

Ask kids to hold or carry their crosses as you pray.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



**Dear Jesus,
Life can be scary.
You are the Messiah we need.
You walk with us in our trials.
You ask us to take up our cross and follow you.
You give us new life.
You are the Messiah we need.
Amen!**

Supplies
None

Send leaflets and a Family Page home with kids.