

Peter's Faith

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 8:27-38

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 15

Lesson Focus
God promised us Jesus.



Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

Kids have their foot or shoe traced on paper, create a reflective moment using a picture of Jesus and a flashlight, and color Bible story pictures.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Construction paper, markers, picture of Jesus, flashlight, blank paper, crayons

Circle Time

Kids welcome each other, hear about the church season, and use a mirror to ask the question "Who am I?"

Leaflets

Bell or chime, mirror, puppet (optional)

Prayer Time

Kids pray together and practice "quiet" prayer.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Peter's Faith Storytelling

Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

Mirror

Follow Me

Kids play a shortened game of follow-the-leader.

Lesson Stickers

Large feather

God's Promise

Kids identify Jesus on the leaflet.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Who Am I? Kids identify Jesus from among several pictures by pointing and circling.	Leaflets	Markers or crayons
I Can Sign Kids learn a rap and use their leaflet to form a cross.	Leaflets	None
Build a Cross Kids learn to associate the cross with Jesus.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Wooden dowels or straws

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids add stones to the class altar.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Quarter-sized polished rocks, dish
Prayer Time Kids repeat the opening prayer using the sign for "Jesus."	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)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have time to participate in at least one center, use a small bell three times to announce the transition time.

Listen to my bell. When I ring it once (ring), it means it's time to clean up. When I ring it twice (ring twice), you should get ready to move. When I ring it three times (ring three times), come and meet your friends in the story circle.

Follow-Me Footprints

Have kids remove their shoes. Kids stand on construction paper while the leader or helper traces their feet using a marker and writes the words "Follow Me" on the paper. Kids may finish by coloring their outlined feet or drawing shoes. Kids could also remove a shoe and trace it themselves if they are able.

Altar Time

Create a corner for some quiet time. Display the picture of Jesus. Use the flashlight to shine light onto the picture. Practice saying Jesus' name five times. Pause in between and practice "listening" after each name.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies and copies of the Spark Coloring Page available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Construction paper

Markers

Picture of Jesus

Flashlight

Blank paper

Crayons

Circle Time

Welcome to Sunday school. Let's see who's here today. Ring the bell and say your name. Pass the bell around. Let kids ring the bell and say their names. Encourage the class to say, **"Welcome, _____ (name)!"** after each kid's turn.

Hold the leaflet for the kids to see. Point to the seasonal icon, the leafing tree. **Do you know what season this is?** Accept all answers. **This is "green" time. We call "green" time "Pentecost."** Repeat the word *Pentecost* two times and have kids echo. **What season is this?** (*Green time!*) **What special word do we use for "green time"?** (*Pentecost!*) **Good.**

Pentecost is a time to follow Jesus. It's a time to grow in our faith. Let's pretend we are a little tree. Sink your feet down into the ground. Plant those roots. Now spread your arms up. Stretch high, little tree. See how you grow. See your green leaves. See the birds in your branches. It's green time, Pentecost. You're growing!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Bell or chime

Mirror

Puppet (optional)

I have a little mirror with me today. When I look in it, I can see myself. (If using a lamb or Squiggles puppet, let the puppet have a look also.) Look in the mirror and say, **"Who am I?"** (pause). **"I'm _____"** (fill in your name). Ask each kid to stand and look in the mirror. Ask them, **"Who are you?"** Kids respond, "I am _____." Respond by saying, **"_____ (name) is a promise!"**

Prayer Time

Help kids remember how to get quiet for prayer. Be patient. Wait until all sounds stop and bodies are still. Eyes are closed. Hands are folded. In a quiet voice, start the prayer.

Jesus (pause)

Jesus, we love you.

Jesus, we thank you.

Jesus, we follow you.

Jesus (pause)

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Peter's Faith Storytelling

In our story today, Jesus asks his friend Peter the same question we asked earlier, "Who am I?" Who is Jesus? Let's see what Peter said.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to Peter's Faith on page 322. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Supplies

Mirror

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

What question did Jesus ask his followers? (*Who do people think I am?*) **Who did Peter think Jesus was?** Give them part of the answer by reading, "You're the one God sent to save the _____."

God had a plan for Jesus. What plan does God have for you? Hold up the mirror and move so all can see themselves at least once. Answers might include: God's plan for me is to grow . . . love Jesus . . . love my family. Accept all answers.

Follow Me

God promised us Jesus. God sent Jesus to save the world. Jesus asked Peter and his disciples to follow him. You can follow Jesus, too, by loving one another. Let's practice following Jesus. Plan a short course within the room or within the church building. (If the Follow-Me Footprints activity was used during Gather time, use the

Spark Resources

Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Large feather

traced feet to create a trail to follow by placing the papers on the floor.) Use the feather to keep all eyes on you. Bend down and go up on tiptoes. Have some fun. Remind kids that they are practicing “following.” End the activity by giving kids a footprint sticker to place on their clothes.

God's Promise

Invite everyone to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet.

Who was in our story today? Peter? Point to Peter. **Let's point to Peter and say his name. Who else was in our story? Jesus!** Point to Jesus. **Let's point to Jesus and say Jesus' name. God promised us that Jesus would come to save us. God promised us Jesus. Jesus brought God's light into the world.** Show sticker. **Let's place the light of God over Jesus' head.** Show kids where to place sticker.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Who Am I?

Have kids turn over their leaflet. Many people wondered who Jesus was. Look at your leaflet. Do you see a baby? Do you see a grandparent? Do you see a kid like you? Do you see Jesus? Let's all point to Jesus. Draw a circle around Jesus with your finger. Give kids markers to circle Jesus after they have circled him with their finger. **You have circled Jesus. Peter said that Jesus was the one God sent to save the world. Peter was right!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Markers or crayons

I Can Sign

God promised to send us Jesus, and God did. God always keeps promises. Jesus was part of God's plan to save us. When we love one another, we are following Jesus. Jesus' name is special. We're going to learn a special sign for Jesus' name. You can see how to do this special sign on your leaflet.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Point to the sign on the leaflet and demonstrate the sign for *Jesus*. Practice as a group. Have each kid sign back to you.

Now let's add the sign we've learned to a rap. Repeat after me, and when we say the word *Jesus*, use the sign that we just learned.

God had a plan! (repeat)

God sent a man! (repeat)

His name is Jesus! (repeat and sign)

He came to free us! (repeat)

Repeat the rap as long as kids are enthusiastic about it.

Build a Cross

We just learned the sign language sign for “Jesus.” Another sign that reminds us of Jesus is a cross. Let’s make some crosses with these things. Show kids how to make a cross using wooden dowels and straws. **Now let’s make a cross with our bodies.** Show kids how to make a cross by standing up straight and putting arms out at shoulder level. **Are there any crosses in this room?** Point some out if there are crosses on room artwork. **Where else in our church building can we see a cross?** Name some places kids are familiar with. **When you see a cross, you can think of Jesus.** (However, Jesus dying on the cross is probably too much information for this age group.) **Here is a sticker of a cross. Let’s put the sticker near a picture of Jesus on the leaflet.** Hand out the sticker and help kids find Jesus on the leaflet.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Wooden dowels or straws

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Have kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. Place the dish on the table. **This week we are building and growing a class altar. As stones are added, our “altar” grows. When I give you a stone, place it in the dish.** Hand each kid a stone and say, _____ (name), you are growing with God.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Quarter-sized polished rocks
Dish

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. Teach your new sign for Jesus to someone in your family at home. Use your new sign for Jesus when you pray tonight. Here is a sticker to remind you.** Hand out the Jesus sticker for kids to place on themselves. **Jesus is a promise from God.**

Prayer Time

Repeat the opening prayer for this lesson, encouraging kids to quiet themselves again. Use the sign for “Jesus” instead of the word.

Jesus (pause)

Jesus, we love you.

Jesus, we thank you.

Jesus, we follow you.

Jesus (pause)

Amen

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

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None