

# Peter's Faith

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Mark 8:27-38**

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Pentecost**

Lesson Focus  
**Jesus is our Messiah and Savior.**



*Tear here for easy use!*

### Gather (10 minutes)

	<b>Spark Resources</b>	<b>Supplies</b>
<b>Arrival Time</b> Kids decorate a Messiah mural and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Mural paper, markers, masking tape, pencils
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids greet each other using the letter M, hear about the church season, and share one false and one true thing about themselves.	Leaflet	None
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids participate in a call-and-response prayer.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	<b>Spark Resources</b>	<b>Supplies</b>
<b>Peter's Faith Storytelling</b> Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible and kids notice that God's plans are not always the same as our plans.	Spark Story Bibles	None
<b>Who Was Jesus?</b> Kids tell the Bible story through a song.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
<b>My Words for Jesus</b> Kids write words that reflect who they think Jesus is.	Leaflets	Pencils or markers, whiteboard, dry erase markers

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>God's Plan</b> Kids color to solve a mosaic puzzle.	Leaflets	Markers
<b>Where in the World?</b> Kids learn about the place called Caesarea Philippi.	Leaflets	None
<b>Messiah Postcards</b> Kids make postcards with the word Messiah on them and learn what <i>Messiah</i> means.	None	Lined, postcard-sized index cards; pencils; markers; glitter glue

Tear here for easy use!

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids select what they will do at home this week and make the sign of the cross as a blessing.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids echo each line of the prayer.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://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)

Tear here for easy use!

## Arrival Time

Place a large piece of mural paper on a table with markers. Set out copies of the Activity Page for this lesson, and markers or pencils on another table.

Write the word *MESSIAH* in open block letters on the mural paper. As kids arrive, invite them to decorate the inside of the letters to make a class mural. Hang with tape when complete.

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

Spark Resources  
Activity Pages



Supplies  
Mural paper  
Markers  
Masking tape  
Pencils

## Circle Time

**Let's welcome everyone today. For each person in our class we will say, "God welcomes name of kid into the family of God!" Today we call Jesus a name that begins with an **M**. Many, many people called Jesus this name that begins with **M**. Do you know what this other name is? We call Jesus, **Messiah**. Let's use the letter **M** today as we greet each other. Tell something about yourself that begins with the letter **M**, or the sound "mmm." I will go first. "I mark my memory verses in the Bible to make sure I can find them."** Give each kid a turn, helping those who might struggle with this.

Spark Resources  
Leaflet

Supplies  
None

**If we were to take a walk outside today, how would we know what season it is in nature? Pause for responses. Right! By looking carefully, we can tell that summer is ending and fall is coming. Did you know that we have seasons in the church, too?**

Hold up a leaflet and point to the picture of the lectionary symbol (*leafing tree*) on the lectionary color (*green*) background under the lesson title. **Let's look at the front of our leaflet; it gives us clues about the church season. What color do you see here? (*green*) What picture clue do you see? (*tree*) The words tell us that this is the season of Pentecost! Let's say Pentecost together: "Pentecost."**

**Pentecost is the longest season of the church year. It starts in the spring and won't end until the end of November. On the first day of Pentecost we remember that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples with a rush of wind and flames; they heard each other speaking in many different languages and could understand each other. This tree is growing, and Pentecost reminds us that we grow in faith, too.**

**In today's Bible story, we will hear how Jesus taught his disciples about himself.**

**Think about yourself for a minute. We're each going to share one thing about ourselves that's true and one thing about us that's false. False means not true. For example, I might say, "I've been to \_\_\_\_\_ (a TRUE answer)" and "I love \_\_\_\_\_ (a FALSE answer)." Which of those things do you think is true about me? Which one do you think is false?** Wait for answers, then confirm which statement is true and which is false. Give each kid a chance to share a true and a false statement. **We can have fun with this idea in Sunday school, but I hope you remember that Jesus always spoke the truth. Jesus said, "The truth will set you free."**

Tear here for easy use!

## Prayer Time

**Let's say a prayer. I'll say one thing about Jesus. Then you can say, "Thank you Jesus." When we've said five things, it will be time to say, "Amen." Let's pray:**

For loving us, thank you, Jesus.  
For being our friend, thank you, Jesus.  
For being so wonderful, thank you, Jesus.  
For being our Messiah, thank you, Jesus.  
For being our Savior, thank you, Jesus.  
Amen.

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
None

## Open the Bible (15 minutes)

### Peter's Faith Storytelling

**Jesus taught people how to follow God. He didn't go around bragging about being God's Son or the Promised One, the Messiah. Listen to the story to find out who Jesus tells the disciples he is. I wonder what names Jesus will use for himself.**

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find Peter's Faith on pages 322-323. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
None

**God's plans and our plans aren't always the same. Here's something that kids your age might do: Help someone carry their groceries. Pause. Do you think that sounds more like one of God's plans or more like a kid's plan? Listen for answers. Why? Let kids share as much as they want. When we do kind things, it is a way we show that we are choosing to follow God's plan.** Repeat with each of the following scenarios:

**Say kind things**

**Share food**

**Fight with a sister or brother**

**Lie about something**

**Pick up trash**

**Jesus wants us to follow God's plans. The more we practice God's plans, the more they pop into our head!**

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

**1. Who did people say that Jesus was?** (*his cousin John, the prophet Elijah*)

**2. Who did Peter say that Jesus was?** (*the one God sent to save the world*)

**3. Which do you do more, God's plans or your plans?** Affirm all responses.

Tear here for easy use!

## Who Was Jesus?

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

**Something from our story is missing from the picture on this page. Can you guess what or who isn't there?** (Jesus) Hand out stickers to kids so they can complete the picture. **Use the large sticker of Jesus to finish the picture. The other word stickers will be used later on another page. Then we'll learn a song that will help us remember the story so we can tell others about who Peter thought Jesus was.** Pause to give kids time to place their large sticker.

**Let's sing a song to the tune of the "The ABC (or Alphabet) Song." The words remind us of what we learned in today's story. I'll sing (or say) each line first, and you can copy after me.** Sing (or say) one line, then pause for kids to echo:

**Jesus asked his disciples to say  
What people thought about him that day.  
Some say Elijah, some say a prophet.  
Jesus said, "What do you think?"  
Peter believed in Jesus his friend,  
"You are the Messiah."  
That's the end.**

**Let's try it all together!** Sing it a couple more times. **Well done! Now you can sing everyone the story!**

**Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible.**

**Spark Resources**

Leaflets

Lesson Stickers

**Supplies**

None

**Today's Bible story, Peter's Faith, is from the book of Mark. Mark is the second book of the New Testament. There are 27 books in the New Testament.**

**Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where?** (second, New, 27) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible memory verse from the story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

**He [Jesus] asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Mark 8:29**

## My Words for Jesus

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Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. **This is called the "My Story" page, and it's where you get to write or draw things about you!**

**Jesus asked his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" We heard some answers in the story today. Do you remember them? One word is already on the page for you, *Messiah*. What other words can you use to tell someone who Jesus is? Let's think of some together, and I'll write them down on the board. Then we'll have a word bank that everyone can share.** Write kids' ideas on the board. All ideas are good ones. Some simple ones could be: *love, joy, son, king, friend, man, gift*.

**Trace the word, *Messiah*, then add your favorite words about Jesus on the lines. If you want help spelling a new word, raise your hand.** Give kids time to write some words. **Did anyone write a new word? Wait. As you grow and learn, you will discover many more words to tell people who Jesus is!**

Tear here for easy use!

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils or markers  
Whiteboard  
Dry erase markers

# Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Tear here for easy use!

## God's Plan

**Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. This page is the "Try-It" page. It will always have a special puzzle or challenge for you to try to solve or do. Today's puzzle is to discover God's plan for Jesus.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

**Today we've been finding out about who Jesus is. Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to the world to do something special. Let's find out what that is. You need one color marker (or crayon) to solve the puzzle, so pick one of your favorites. Pause. What letter does the word God begin with? (G) Color all the shapes that have the letter G in them. When you are finished, it will tell you God's plan for Jesus. Write a G on paper or the board for anyone who is confused. I see some letters appearing. What do they spell? (SAVE) Let's write S-A-V-E on the lines in the sentence. God sent Jesus to SAVE the world. You did a great job discovering the something special about Jesus.**

Supplies  
Markers

**You're very special, too. God thinks so! What letter does the word, my start with? (m) Color all the shapes that have the letter m for my in them however you want. Show us your own plan for the rest of the mosaic puzzle. Give kids time to complete their own plan. Here's where we will learn about real things that happened during Bible times and things that happen today.**

## Where in the World?

**Turn to the back page of your leaflets. This activity is where we will learn about real things that happened during Bible times and things that are real today.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

**Today's story happened in a place called Caesarea Philippi. Let's read and learn more about it. Read aloud or ask a kid to read aloud the text in the leaflet about where the story, Peter's Faith, actually took place.**

Supplies  
None

**Let's learn how to say the name of the city together. Echo me on each syllable; then we'll put it all together: "Says uh REE uh/ FILL ih pie." Let's practice saying the city's name very slowly and very fast. Challenge kids to take turns saying one syllable in sequence. Show your family this page after class and see if they know how to say the name—you sure do!**

## Messiah Postcards

Give each child an index card. **We can tell others that Jesus is our Messiah. Write the word *Messiah, M-E-S-S-I A-H* on the blank side of your postcard. Now write your name on the side with lines. Use the markers and glitter glue to decorate your postcard.** Give kids decorating time. **After class, give it or mail it to someone you love to share what you learned about Jesus.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Lined, postcard-sized index cards

Pencils

Markers

Glitter glue

## Send (5 minutes)

### Good-bye Time

**Thank you for coming to class today! We learned about Peter's faith and trust in Jesus. We know that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior God promised.**

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet, and have the kids fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

**After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week we can tell each other what we did to share God's love and remember our Bible story!**

**When we make the sign of the cross, we remember that God is with us every moment of every day. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or in your hand to remember God's protection for you this week. Then make the sign of the cross on a friend's forehead or palm and say, "Jesus is our Messiah and Savior!"**

At the end of class, do the same for each kid and ask them to do the same for you.

Tear here for easy use!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Scissors

## Prayer Time

**Repeat this prayer after me, line by line:**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for sending Jesus the Messiah.**

**Thank you for saving us.**

**Help us to follow you**

**And to be your disciples.**

**Amen.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

None

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