

Peter's Faith

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 8:27-38

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 15

Lesson Focus
Jesus is Lord.

Bible Memory Verse
[Jesus] asked them, "But
who do you say that I
am?" Peter answered him,
"You are the Messiah."
Mark 8:29



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids solve a word scramble in the room.	Activity Pages 	Sticky notes, marker, index cards, pencils
Opening Conversation Kids check in and review past lesson content.	None	None
Opening Prayer Kids repeat a one-line litany prayer.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Peter's Faith Story Kids hear Peter's confession and consider who Jesus is to them.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils
A Rare Occasion Kids think about when they get it right.	Leaflets	None
Names of Jesus Kids learn many names for Jesus.	Leaflets	Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Fun Facts Kids decide what qualities they would look for in a Messiah.	Leaflets	Chart paper, markers, masking tape
Describe That Messiah! Kids create their own board game about Jesus the Messiah.	Leaflets	Scissors, pencils

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids review the Bible Memory Verse (BMV) and learn about Faith on the Go! options.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils
Closing Prayer Kids pray a popcorn 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)

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.

Write each of the letters that make this sentence on a sticky note: **J e s u s i s L o r d.** Hide the sticky notes in random places around the room. As kids arrive, equip them with an index card and pencil. Invite them to find all eleven letters, writing them on their cards as they are found, then unscrambling them into a sentence.

Welcome to Sunday school! There are eleven letters slightly hidden in our room. See if you can find all eleven, and write them on your index card as you do. When you find one, don't let on what you've seen; let others find them themselves. When you have found all eleven letters, see if you can unscramble them into a sentence. If kids are not able to unscramble the letters, give a hint: **There are three words in this short sentence.**

Spark Resources
Activity Pages



Supplies
Sticky notes
Marker
Index cards
Pencils

Opening Conversation

Gather kids in a circle. If this is your first Sunday together after summer vacation, take extra time to reconnect with kids. **Let's find out what's new with all of you.**

Pretend we are watching a movie about your week (or summer). Tell us two things that happened in that movie and then let us guess which one is something you'd like to rewind and play again (a good thing) **or fast-forward and forget about** (a not so good thing). **I'll start.** Give an example of a good thing that happened during your week (or summer) and one not so good thing.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
None

If your life was a movie this week, what might it be titled? *The Case of the Missing Homework? Crime and Punishment?* Invite kids to invent their movie title ideas!

Thanks for sharing what your week (or summer) was like. Let's get ready to dig into this week's story!

Opening Prayer

Please pray with me. When I point at you, say all together, "You are the Messiah."

Spark Resources
None

Dear Jesus,
Help us know what to say when we are asked who you are, because (point at kids) (*You are the Messiah.*)

Supplies
None

Lord, we get confused and don't always get it, but our hearts know that (point at kids) (*You are the Messiah.*)

Amen.

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Peter's Faith Story

Distribute Spark Bibles. **Imagine with me that you'd waited a long time to meet Jesus. You heard he was coming today. What do you think he might look or act like so you'll know it's him? Many people had waited for a Messiah, someone to save them. But they were expecting someone very different. The Jews hoped for a new king, someone who could make things good again. If you were looking for a hero, someone to save your people, what might that Messiah be like? (The hoped-for Messiah might be powerful, forceful, etc.)**

Among Jesus' disciples was Peter. Peter loved Jesus; he usually meant well, but he didn't always get it right. Let's see what Peter did get right.

Open your Bibles to the book of Mark. Who can tell me if it's in the Old or New Testament? (New Testament) Who can name the first four books of the New Testament? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.) Now let's find Mark 8:27-38 and put a sticker by it. Give kids time to find the story on page 1110 of their Spark Bibles.

Read Mark 8:27-30 aloud. **What did Peter get completely right this time? (Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah.) Read Mark 8:31-38. Peter didn't get it right here. Can you blame him? Why might Peter not like the idea that Jesus would be killed? (Peter loved Jesus and probably thought he couldn't be a Savior if he was dead!)** Invite kids to underline the words that show where he got it right and not right in this story.

What would you say to Jesus if he asked you, "Who do you say that I am?" Kids can write their responses in the margins of their Bibles near the story.

Read the Know It! and Think about It! questions at the bottom of page 1110. Encourage a variety of responses.

Let's learn the memory verse together. Practice Mark 8:29 together by dividing kids into two groups. One group says the first part of the verse, Jesus' question. The other group says the last part of the verse, Peter's response. After asking and responding a few times, switch the groups so they learn the other part.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

A Rare Occasion

Pass out leaflets. **Let's read about a kid named Trey in A Rare Occasion.** Read the story from the front leaflet page, or ask a volunteer to read it. **When have you felt like Trey, when it feels like you almost never get anything right? Without saying names, is there a kid you know who always messes up? How do you treat that person? Have you ever gotten something right that everyone else missed?** Discuss the I Wonder statements together.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Names of Jesus

Let's do Names of Jesus on the second page of our leaflet. Ask a volunteer to read the instructions. If kids need a hint unscrambling the words, you can let them know that the list is in alphabetical order. You can also point out the photos that show some of the scrambled words (Cool Nurse) and unscrambled words (Lamb). When they finish unscrambling, ask them what words they have heard of before to describe Jesus and which ones they haven't. **What do words like Advocate, Counselor, Gate, Light, Redeemer, Savior, Shepherd, and Way have in common?** (They describe what Jesus does for us.)

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Answer Key

DATA COVE = ADVOCATE
YAM LIGHT = ALMIGHTY
THIRSC = CHRIST
COOL NURSE = COUNSELOR
AN ELM EMU = EMMANUEL
ETAG = GATE
ODG = GOD
BLAM = LAMB
GLITH = LIGHT
DROL = LORD
AS ME HIS = MESSIAH
DEER MERE = REDEEMER
CROK = ROCK
A VISOR = SAVIOR
SHRED HEP = SHEPHERD
ONS = SON
RUTH T = TRUTH
YAW = WAY

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Fun Facts

Let's read the Fun Facts on the third page. Invite different kids to each read one Fun Fact. Spread out the chart paper and make markers available. **We're going to draw a diagram of Jesus explaining who he is and what he does. First, let's draw a person.** **Does anyone want to be traced?** Invite one kid to lie on the paper as you carefully trace around him or her, making sure not to color clothing or skin. **Now let's draw some arrows to different areas on our Jesus with an explanation of how he uses it to be our Messiah. For example, I'm going to draw an arrow to his heart and write, "Jesus loves us."** Other ideas include "Eats bread and drinks wine," with arrow pointing to mouth; "Walks all over Israel," with arrow pointing to feet; and "Told Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan!'" with arrow pointing behind him. When finished, hang your diagram of Jesus on a wall with the masking tape.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Chart paper
Markers
Masking tape

Describe That Messiah!

Let's turn to Describe That Messiah! on the third page of the leaflet. You get to create your own game. It will be a little bit like hangman and a little bit like a game show where they turn over letters when you guess them. Here's what you do:

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Scissors
Pencils

- 1. Cut out the activity from your leaflet.**
- 2. Come up with a phrase that describes Jesus that will fit in the squares, including spaces between words.**
- 3. Write your phrase in the boxes.**
- 4. Fold over your paper on the fold line.**
- 5. Cut along the lines of each letter box.**
- 6. Find a partner.**
- 7. Take turns guessing letters to solve the phrase. The first one to solve the other's puzzle wins.**

If time allows, have kids switch partners and replay the game. Invite kids to share the phrases that they created for the game when everyone is finished.

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Gather the kids in a circle. **We're going to see if we can remember the BMV.** Split the circle in half. **This half will be the Jesus side** (point to one side), **and this half** (point to the other side) **will be the Peter side. I'll be the narrator. You complete my sentence when I point to you.**

[Jesus] asked them, (point to Jesus side, who will say: "But who do you say that I am?")

Peter answered him, (point to Peter side, who will say: "You are the Messiah.")

Great job! Now let's switch sides! Repeat activity using opposite sides.

If they haven't done so already, encourage kids to place a sticker next to the BMV, and write any notes in the margin that they'd like to remember about the verse or story.

Next, direct the kids' attention to Faith on the Go! on the back page of their leaflets.

It's not easy figuring out who Jesus is. It can be even harder to tell others what we believe. Let's read these and figure out which ones we'd like to try this week.

Invite a kid to read the ideas aloud. Remind the kids to report back next time.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Closing Prayer

Let's close with a popcorn prayer. I'll start a simple prayer, and you respond any time with a phrase describing who Jesus is to you. If you want, you can use the phrase you created in your game. Let's pray:

Jesus, we don't always get everything right, but these things we know about you: (kids insert prayers here). **Jesus, you are Lord. You are our Messiah. Amen.**

Be sure to send leaflets home with kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources
Family Pages


Supplies
None