

Jesus Walked on Water

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus is: Trustworthy

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
-John 14:6

Summer Sunday Schedule:

10:45-10:55 - Welcome/arrival
11:00 - 11:20 - Game Station (LG1)
11:25-11:45 - Story Station (LG2)
11:50-12:10 - Project Station (Classroom)
12:15 - Stay in room for dismissal

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Take time to prepare your heart and mind by spending time in the Word reading Matthew 14:22-33. You can also find this story in Mark 6 and John 6. Note your observations about Jesus' character and what truths you see so you can share them with the kids.

This passage shows us that Jesus can be trusted. His miracles, teaching, death, and resurrection shows that He is who He says He is. We can encourage our kids to look to Jesus in faith every day. They can look to Him for help as they live in every day life. Even in the midst of fear and doubt, we can hold out our empty hands and cry, "Lord, save me!" He will answer and we can respond in worship of our Lord and Savior.



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



LESSON OVERVIEW

None

Discuss with the class how today's lesson is about a time that Jesus walked on water. Ask: **Is walking on water possible for you and me?** No! How did Jesus walk on water then? (Discuss)

Have the class act out how they would walk on these different surfaces: - - -

- Pavement - Quicksand - Slippery ice - Steep hill - Water

Talk about how we can walk on all of these surfaces, except water! People cannot walk on water. But we are going to learn about a time when Jesus miraculously walked on water and allowed Peter to walk on water too!

Summarize Matthew 14:22-33 and then discuss the following questions:

How was Peter able to walk on water? Guide kids to discuss how Jesus' power allowed Peter to walk on water. Remind the kids that impossible things can happen when God's power is involved. Point out the correlation between Peter's faith in Jesus while he walked on water and his fear of the storm when he sank. Discuss the importance of faith in our lives.

Is there anything we cannot do with God's power? Discuss the fact that God's power is unlimited, but that doesn't mean we can use Him for personal gain. Help kids see that testing the Lord is foolish and that anything He empowers us to do will be in line with His character and plans for the world.

When was the last time you trusted God to help you through a hard time? Guide kids to discuss experiences they have had in which God helped them through a difficult situation.



ACTIVITY:

Sink or Float

- Clear bin
- Prediction Sheet
- Pencil
- Crayon
- Pencil
- Coin
- Popsicle stick
- Toy car
- Cotton Ball
- Marshmallow

Explain that our bible story today is about Jesus walking on water and that we are going to do an experiment to see what types of things sink or float in water.

Pass out the prediction sheet and have everyone mark if they think the objects will sink or float.

Fill the empty container with water and have students gather around. Test each item and mark whether it floated or sank.

Discuss how we will talk about a time that Peter began to sink in water, but in Peter's case it was because of a lack of faith. He needed to remember to keep his eyes fixed on Jesus.

Ask: How do you think we can keep our eyes fixed on Jesus?

- Praying when we are worried or afraid
- Singing songs from church/about God
- Remembering Bible stories
- Remembering how Jesus has helped us or people we know and how He promises to always be with us

Predictions: Will it sink or float?

Name of object:	Float	Sink
Crayon		
Pencil		
Coin		
Popsicle stick		
Toy car		
Cotton ball		
Marshmallow		

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Prayer 101

Put Your Worries in a Bag

- Brown paper bag
- Pencils
- Slips of paper

Let's help our children learn to pray by giving them time to draw out their prayers.

Give each child a few blank slips of paper and a pencil.

Talk together as a class about what we can pray about to God:

- We can talk to Him about what He is like - how He is good, loving, kind, etc.
- We can talk to Him about how he helps us...
- We can thank Him for our family, friends, school... (be specific!)
- We can ask for help with....anything! (be specific!)

Write "God" on the brown paper bag. Explain that when we are scared or worried about something in our lives we can give this to God in prayer and trust Him.

Write a common worry children have such as, not making friends, forgetting their homework, or not being liked - and place it in the bag.

Have the children take some time to think about something that they want to pray to God about - it can be a fear, a worry, something they need help with, etc. Remind them that God promises to be near and listen to our concerns. He can help us and we can trust Him to take care of all our needs.

Have the children spend a minute or two praying and then have them place their slips of paper in the brown paper bag to symbolize giving them over to God.

End by praying together as a class for some of the prayer requests that were placed in the bag.