

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:

8:55-9:05 - Welcome/arrival
9:10-9:30 - Project Station (classroom)
9:35-9:55 - Game Station (LG1)
10-10:20 - Story Station (LG2)
10:20-10:45 - Back to classroom;
snack and transition to 2nd service

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:

Mini Boats

- Pool Noodle slices
- Cut straws
- Paper sails (with verse printed on them)
- Hole Punch
- Colored Pencils
- Markers

Read Hebrews 12:2 to the class - "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

SAY: In our bible story, Peter walked to Jesus on water. How was he able to do that? (His eyes were on Jesus, he trusted Him.)

- Talk about what "fixing our eyes on Jesus" looks like
 - 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.

Pass out a pool noodle segment, straw and paper sail - Have kids write Hebrews 12:2 on the sail and then color and decorate it!

- Help the children punch holes at the two black dots.
- Use a pen or pencil to puncture the pool noodle and then have the children push their straw in.
- Afterward, have them add their sail to the straw.



MEMORY VERSE GAME

Hide a Word

- Key Passage Poster
- Words from verse

Practice John 14:6 together a few times.

Pass out the words that are on individual pieces of paper. Have the children who are chosen line up in front of the room (not in correct verse order).

Have the rest of the group work together to unscramble the words by telling the kids to move around.

When the verse is in the correct order, have everyone say the verse together.

For an added challenge - One child from the audience chooses 2 or 3 kids to turn around so no one can see the word they are holding. Then the class says the verse together, including the missing words.

Continue by choosing a few other volunteers to turn around more kids holding words. Repeat each time until there are only a few words (or no words!) left.