

STORY POINT:

Keep your eyes on Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 19:26

“But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

EARLY ARRIVER: WILL IT FLOAT? Fill buckets full of water and place items on the tables to let kids see which items float and which items sink.

SMALL GROUP QUESTION & COLORING:

SAY: Would you rather swim in the ocean in the dark or swim in a pool of spaghetti sauce? Do you know how to swim?

Imagine being on a boat in the middle of the night and suddenly seeing someone walking toward you! That’s what Jesus’ disciples experienced in the Bible story we will hear today. We’ll find out how they reacted.

LARGE GROUP OPENING ACTIVITY: Cross the River

Supplies: blankets, paper plates and rocks

Make a river using the blankets. Allow children to take turns trying to get across the water without stepping into the water by using the logs and the rocks.

SAY: Great job working together to cross the river. Do you know what would have been easier? If you could have walked on the water! That’s what Jesus did in the Bible story we will hear today.

LARGE GROUP BIBLE STORY: Jesus Walked on Water | Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 6

Go over Key Passage: Matthew 19:26

Supplies: blue streamers (Whenever kids hear something about water, invite them to wave their blue streamers like waves in the water.), a picture of Jesus (tell kids to keep their eyes on Jesus while you tell the story)

Jesus had been teaching crowds of people by the Sea of Galilee. It was getting late, so He told His disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side of the sea. Jesus sent the crowds away and went up on the mountain to pray by Himself.

That evening, the boat was far from the shore. The wind blew, and the waves tossed the boat around. Jesus was still on the mountain alone.

Around three in the morning, Jesus came toward His disciples, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Jesus, they were terrified.

“It’s a ghost!” they cried.

Right away, Jesus spoke to them. “Have courage! It’s Me. Do not be afraid.”

Peter answered, “Lord, if it really is You, tell me to come to You on the water.”

So Jesus said, “Come!”

Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw how strongly the wind was blowing, he was afraid. Peter began to sink in the water.

“Lord, save me!” he cried.

Jesus reached out His hand and grabbed Peter from the water. Jesus said, “You have little faith. Why did you doubt?”

They got into the boat and the wind stopped. Then everyone in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

Christ Connection: Jesus proved that He can be trusted. His miracles, teaching, death, and resurrection showed that He is who He says He is. Only Jesus can save us when we look to Him in faith.

BONUS MATERIAL

CRAFT: Jesus Walks on Water Craft

Supplies: scissors, printout on card stock, glue, crayons, blue tissue paper, popsicle sticks

1. Give each child a card stock printout and scissors. Help them cut out the picture of Jesus.
2. Let them color the pictures. If they want, let them use blue tissue paper for the waves by glueing it on.
3. Show them how to cut on the dotted lines on the picture.
4. Help them attach Jesus to the popsicle stick.
5. Show them how to move Jesus along on top of the waves by putting him through the hole in the water on the bottom.

SAY: Jesus showed He is God by walking on water. Jesus proved that He can be trusted. His miracles, teaching, death, and resurrection showed that He is who He says He is. Only Jesus can save us when we look to Him in faith.

SMALL GROUP Big Picture Question:

Why did Jesus perform miracles? *Jesus performed miracles to show he is the Son of God.*

SMALL GROUP Catechism Question:

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help us? A: The Holy Spirit shows us our sin and helps us pray and understand God's Word.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What did Jesus tell His disciples to do while He went to pray?** (*get into a boat, go to the other side of the sea*)
2. **In the middle of the night, who did the disciples see?** (*Jesus*)
3. **What was Jesus doing?** (*Jesus walked on water.*)
4. **Who also wanted to walk on water?** (*Peter*)
5. **What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus?** (*He started to sink*)
6. **Who saved Peter when he sank?** (*Jesus*)
7. **Why did Jesus perform miracles?** *Jesus performed miracles to show He is the Son of God.*

SMALL GROUP PRAYER: Father God, when our eyes fall away from You, fear and doubt fill our minds. Draw us back to Yourself. Fix our eyes on Jesus, who saves us from our sin. You created the wind and the waves. You are in control of everything that happens. Help us trust You. You are good, and You love us. We as these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

May the word of
the Lord grow in
their hearts



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