

SABBATH SCHOOL

Level K • Unit 7 • Week 2

PETER WALKS ON THE WATER

OBJECTIVE:

To teach the definition of faith as believing in what God says by using the story of Peter walking on the water.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Prepare: Before class, fill container with water and place on table for students to observe.

Do: Hold up a pebble or a "Lego" person.

Ask: How many of you think this pebble [or person] will stay on top of the water? How many of you think it will sink to the bottom of the container?

Do: Drop the pebble or Lego into the container.

Ask: Why didn't it stay on top of the water?

Response: Because it was too heavy.

Say: Today we're going to hear an exciting story of how two men stayed on top of the water and even walked on the water.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: One day Jesus was with His disciples. They had just finished talking with and feeding a large group of people. They had come to hear Jesus preach. The crowd had gotten so excited about what they heard that they wanted to have Jesus stay and talk to them even longer.

It was getting late, so Jesus told His disciples to get into the boat and that He would meet them on the other side of the Sea of Galilee in a while. The disciples were tired, but they did as He said. The Sea of Galilee was large, and it would take them several hours to make it to the other side.

Jesus decided to go up into the mountain where He could pray. When He was finished praying, He noticed that the boat carrying His disciples was only halfway across. The boat was not making good time. A storm had come up and the waves were getting high. Then Jesus did a curious thing. He started to walk on top of the water. Well, after all, wasn't that the fastest way to get to the other side?

Ask: Have you ever been in a boat in a storm? What did it feel like?

Say: In a storm it gets dark, the wind can blow and the boat can start rocking.

Do: Divide class so that some make o-o-o-h sounds and some sit on floor and rock side to side.

Say: Well, this is exactly what was happening to the disciples. They started looking around at the waves and the storm. Then suddenly they saw what looked like a ghost walking through the choppy waters toward them. It was scary.

Quickly, Christ called out to them. He wanted to help calm them. He said: "It's me. Don't be afraid." But Peter was curious and wanted to do exactly what Jesus was doing, so he asked if he could come out there too.

So Jesus said, "Sure. Come to me."

Ask: What happened next?

Say: That's right. Peter climbed down the side of the boat to water level. He put his foot down on top of the water and took a step. With his eyes on Jesus, he took the next step. And then another. But then he heard the wind howling and became afraid. What seemed so easy seconds before became oh so difficult. He was starting to sink and panicked.

Peter cried out to Christ, "Jesus, save me." Christ swiftly reached out a strong hand to Peter and helped him back to the boat. As soon as they were in the boat, the wind stopped. This miracle was another proof to His disciples that Jesus was the Son of God.

Ask: Why do you think Peter was able to walk on the water?

Say: Yes, he believed Jesus. He had trust and faith in Jesus' command, and he knew Jesus had the power to help him walk on the water. Faith is believing what God says.

- Ask: Why did Peter begin to sink?
- Say: He lost faith. Instead of looking at Jesus and remembering His power, he looked at the waves and heard the wind.
- Ask: Does God want us to walk on water?
- Say: No. But God wants us to obey His commandments and do the right things. The story of Peter walking on water is a lesson in faith. God wants us to believe Him and He will help us to do what is right if we focus on what He promises.

LESSON APPLICATION:

- Supplies: Small colorful paper plates cut in half
Plastic spoons (two each)
Craft stick or tongue depressors (one each)
Construction paper (cut as right triangles 6 inches high, 3 1/2 inches on bottom, two each)
Glue
Stapler
Markers

- Directions: Make a cut-and-paste model of the story. Give each child one small colorful paper plate (cut in half), two plastic spoons, a tongue depressor or craft stick, two construction paper triangles (mast side 6 inches, bottom side 3 1/2 inches) and a small piece of paper with the following:

BELIEVE IN GOD
JOHN 14:1

Glue or staple paper plates on curved edges to form boat. Glue memory verse to boat. Glue sail (triangles) to craft stick. Glue stick to halved paper plates to form sailboat. Children can use markers to make faces to represent Christ and Peter on the spoons. Tape spoons in boat.

Music:

Sing the following to the tune of "Thumbkin."

Words

Where is Martha? Where is Martha?
There she is. There she is.
She is busy listening. She is busy listening.
List'ning to Christ. List'ning to Christ.

Where is Peter? Where is Peter?
There he is. There he is.
He is busy walking. He is busy walking.
Walking to Christ. Walking to Christ.

Where is Dorcas? Where is Dorcas?
There she is. There she is.
She is busy sewing. She is busy sewing.
Sewing new clothes. Sewing new clothes.

Where is Zacchaeus? Where is Zacchaeus?
There he is. There he is.
He is busy looking. He is busy looking.
Looking for Christ. Looking for Christ.

Hand Motions

Cup hand to ear

Second and third fingers move on open palm

Use pretend needle and sew

Hand above eye like salute

MEMORY VERSE:

John 14:1 "Believe in God."

Say: Remember, faith is believing what God says in His Bible.

family activity

THE POINT:

To teach the definition of faith as believing in what God says by using the story of Peter walking on the water.

ASK ME...

- Why was Peter able to walk on the water?
- What happened to Peter when he didn't look at Christ?
- What is faith?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss faith with your child. Emphasize that faith is believing in God. Mention specific examples of your faith. Use examples of your prayers that have been answered.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 14:1 "Believe in God."