



BIG IDEA

Jesus can do the impossible.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Walks on Water: Matthew 14:22-33

LARGE GROUP ORDER

WELCOME, RULES & ANNOUNCEMENTS (3 min)

WORSHIP SONG (3min)

PASSING OF THE PEACE (1 min)

ATTENTION GRABBER (4 min)

THE BIG IDEA (1 min)

MEMORY VERSE (3 min)

PRAYER (2 min)

BIBLE STORY (6 min)

WORSHIP SONG (3 min)

OFFERING (during song)

DISMISSAL (1 min)





LARGE GROUP

WELCOME, RULES & ANNOUNCEMENTS (3 min)

WORSHIP SONG (3min) | “All Around The World”

PASSING OF THE PEACE (1 min)

ATTENTION GRABBER (4 min) | **The Dead Sea**

- Most of the time, people don’t float very easily in water, but there is one body of water that is unlike any other! You couldn’t sink in it if you tried! It’s by Israel, and it is the lowest point on the whole earth. It has so much salt in it that everything in the whole sea floats.
- *Show [this video](#).*
- **Why do people float in the Dead Sea?** It has really high levels of salt in it. The salt is denser, or heavier, than the water. That makes humans lighter, or less dense, than the water, so you can float!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can show kids how salt makes things float with this cool experiment. Put a hardboiled egg in a cup of regular water, and then in a cup of salt water (six tablespoons of salt mixed into a cup of water). The egg will float in the salt water.*

THE BIG IDEA (1 min) | **Jesus can do the impossible.**

MEMORY VERSE (3 min) | **John 14:6**

I AM THE WAY (*hold one arm out to the side*)
THE TRUTH (*hold the other arm out to the side*)
AND THE LIFE (*point both arms up*).
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER (*shake one finger*)
EXCEPT THROUGH ME (*point up*).

PRAYER (2 min)

BIBLE STORY (6 min) | **Matthew 14:22-33**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water?**
- **How would you have felt if you would have been in their position?**
- The Bible doesn’t just say they were scared—it says they were *terrified*!



- The first thing Jesus said to His disciples was to have courage. That's because Jesus could tell how scared they were.
- **Is it easy to have courage when we're afraid?** It can be hard.
- Peter was amazed when he saw Jesus walk on water, but he didn't just sit in the boat and watch. He decided to be brave and come join Jesus on the water. He stepped out of the boat and the impossible happened – Peter was able to walk on water too.
- **How do you think Peter felt when that happened?**
- Peter trusted Jesus enough to step out of the boat and have courage to do something that seemed impossible. He had faith. **Faith is having complete trust in Jesus.**
- But what happened next? Peter got scared again! He stopped looking at Jesus and started looking at the wrong things. He paid attention to the wind and the waves and became afraid. That's when he started to sink.
- This story reminds us that, when we are scared, or facing problems, or feel like we're starting to sink, we need to remember to focus on Jesus and let Him give us courage.
- **When we're scared, we can trust God because Jesus can do the impossible.**

OFFERING (during song) | UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

WORSHIP SONG (3 min) | "Let's Get A Little Crazy"

DISMISSAL (1 min)



ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

GAME/ACTIVITY | Floating Paperclips

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask your group if they think you can get a paperclip to float on water. Put the paper clip in the cup of water and it will sink. Let the kids try to get it to float on their own (have towels ready for a mess). Take the paperclip and unfold it so it is in an “L” shape. Use the bottom of the “L” shape to gently lay another paperclip on the surface of the water. It will float on top of the water. Let the kids practice getting a paperclip to float on top of the water. Then say this . . .*
- Peter was able to walk on water only by the power of God, and only when he had faith. We can have faith and trust Jesus too, because He is all powerful.

REVIEW BIBLE STORY | Matthew 14:22-33

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **Why were the disciples scared?** *(They thought Jesus was a ghost.)*
- **What did Jesus do that was impossible?** *(He walked on water.)*
- **What did Peter do that showed faith?** *(He got out of the boat and walked on water.)*
- **What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus?** *(He started to sink.)*
- **What does it mean to take your eyes off of Jesus?**
- **Where in your life do you need to trust Jesus more and have faith?**
- **What can you do to “step out of the boat” and get outside your comfort zone to have more faith?**

GAME/ACTIVITY | Invisible Ink Pictures

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out white paper and white crayons to each child. Tell them to draw something on their paper that represents something about themselves—it can be anything, so encourage them to be creative. The catch is that they can only draw using the white crayon, which will be a challenge on white paper. After a few kids have finished pictures, tell them to put their pictures in the middle of the room, mix them up, and then tell each kid to choose one out of the pile. They will all look the same: plain white, so they won’t know whose picture they chose. Once everyone has a drawing, give them watercolor paint to paint all over the picture, and like magic, the crayon picture will appear! They can give the pictures back to their original creators.*
- **Can you guess whose picture they have, based on the picture that appeared?**
- Isn’t it amazing how the hidden message showed up after you painted over it?
- When you first chose a paper from the pile, you didn’t know whose it was. But just because you couldn’t see the picture didn’t mean it wasn’t there. It was there the whole time!
- Sometimes trusting in Jesus is kind of like that. We can’t always see Him or what He’s doing, but we can trust He’s always there. We’re going to learn today about how important it is to trust and focus on Jesus.



MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6

I AM THE WAY (*hold one arm out to the side*)
THE TRUTH (*hold the other arm out to the side*)
AND THE LIFE (*point both arms up*).
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER (*shake one finger*)
EXCEPT THROUGH ME (*point up*).

RECAP OF THE MONTH

- We've learned so much this month! We've been talking all about the unbelievable and amazing miracles of Jesus! Let's see if you can remember what we talked about.
 - When we heard the story of Jesus healing the leper, we learned that **Jesus cares about us when we're sick**— and that we can show kindness to those who are sick.
 - When we heard the story of Jesus calming the storm, we learned that **Jesus cares about us when we're afraid**— and that He will never leave us.
 - When we heard the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, we learned that **Jesus can provide for our needs** — and that we can trust Him to keep His promises.
 - And today, when we heard the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water, we learned that **Jesus can do the impossible** — and that we can get out of our comfort zones to let God show us His power.

PRAYER

- Praying is simple; it's just talking to God. Let's pray together now.
- Dear God, we thank you for all the amazing and unbelievable things you do. Help us have faith in you, amen.

PARENT PICKUP

While waiting, the students can color, complete any unfinished activities, redo other games or activities, play Hangman or a different game on the board.



PRESCHOOL SMALL GROUP

WATCH VIDEO

SNACK & BIBLE STORY REVIEW | Matthew 14:22-33

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out a snack to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!*
- **Who was in the boat?** *(The disciples.)*
- **How did the disciples feel when they first saw Jesus?** *(They were terrified.)*
- **Who got out of the boat to walk on water?** *(Peter.)*
- **What happened to Peter when he saw the wind and the waves?** *(He started to sink.)*
- **What did the disciples do after the miracle?** *(They worshipped Jesus.)*

ACTIVITY/GAME | Don't Let Peter Sink

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Blow up a balloon and draw a face on it with a marker. Tell the kids we're pretending the balloon is Peter and the floor will be the water. They have to bop him up in the air so he stays on top of the water doesn't sink. To make it harder, you can tell them to put their feet on the ground and freeze.*
- **How do you think the other disciples felt when they saw Peter walking on water? How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples in the boat?**
- Peter was courageous when he stepped out of the boat. He got to be a part of an amazing miracle and got to experience the power of Jesus in an awesome way. He started to sink when he looked at the wind and the waves instead of Jesus.
- Sometimes, God wants us to do things that take courage so we can see His power and let Him help us. He might ask us to be nice to someone we don't know or pray for someone. **When we do what God wants us to do, we might see amazing things because God is all powerful, and He can do the impossible.**

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6

I AM THE WAY *(hold one arm out to the side)*
THE TRUTH *(hold the other arm out to the side)*
AND THE LIFE *(point both arms up).*
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER *(shake one finger)*
EXCEPT THROUGH ME *(point up).*

ACTIVITY/GAME | Coloring Page of the Week

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them how much Jesus provides for us.*



RECAP OF THE MONTH

- We've learned so much this month! We've been talking all about the unbelievable and amazing miracles of Jesus! Let's see if you can remember what we talked about.
 - When we heard the story of Jesus healing the leper, we learned that **Jesus cares about us when we're sick.**
 - When we heard the story of Jesus calming the storm, we learned that **Jesus cares about us when we're afraid.**
 - When we heard the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, we learned that **Jesus can provide for our needs.**
 - And today, when we heard the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water, we learned that **Jesus can do the impossible.**

PRAYER

- Praying is simple; it's just talking to God. Let's pray together now.
- Dear God, we thank you for all the amazing and unbelievable things you do. Help us have faith in you, amen.

PARENT PICK UP

- While waiting, the students can color, complete any unfinished activities, redo other games or activities, play with the toys in the room.