

Session 7

PETER WALKS ON WATER

Trust God in all circumstances.

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Supplies:

- ◆ Coloured masking tape
- ◆ Picture of Peter walking on the water
- ◆ Binoculars
- ◆ Picture of boat (or small toy boat)
- ◆ Sheer fabric (or wax paper)
- ◆ 2 colouring pictures
- ◆ Pencils and/or crayons
- ◆ 1 ice cream lolly stick per child
- ◆ Glue
- ◆ Sponge for each child
- ◆ Toothpicks or something similar
- ◆ Pieces of white paper with the words: "Jesus is my Lifeguard"
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ A large plastic bowl or something in which all the sponges can float.

(Before your session, use coloured masking tape (or something similar) to make the shape of a boat on the floor for the kids to sit in. Hang a picture of Peter walking on water on the wall in front of where you will be teaching and cover it with wax paper.)



WELCOME

Row row row: All the children climb into the "boat" which is shaped with the masking tape. They must be ready to row. Then everyone rows at the same time, singing:

"Row, row, row your boat

Gently down the stream.

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily:

Life is but a dream."

Repeat it many times, going faster and faster each time.

Footprints: Let children take off their shoes and socks and take turns placing their feet in a shallow pan/cat litter box with water. The first child must put his/her feet into the water and then on the floor or on the sidewalk and make footprints. Then the next child will put their feet into the water and try to walk on the exact same footprints as the first child. Each child will follow and see if they can walk on the same prints. If they happen to make a new print, the children following, can choose which footprints they want to follow. Tell the children: "Just as we walked in each other's footprints now, there was someone in the Bible who tried to follow Jesus when He walked on water! Does anyone know who it is? Yes, Peter!"

Hold up binoculars and ask the children if they know what this is. Explain that the binoculars help us to see something far away more clearly. If something is far away, you can see it as if it's close by. Ask the children if they have ever tried to look at something that is too far away to distinguish. (E.g. Something that is high in a tree or on the horizon.)

Show the picture which has waxed paper covering it. Ask the children if they can see the picture. Sometimes it is difficult to see things properly, until someone can help us understand what we are looking at.

Today we are going to talk about the story of Peter who saw something, along with the other disciples, but when they realised what it was that they could see, Peter wanted to do something...



WORSHIP

Sing the **theme song** as in session 1.

Other songs: "I have decided to follow Jesus"

"Jesus, name above all names"

Settle-down ritual:

(Let the children close their eyes, and play background sounds of the sea.)

Imagine that you are in a boat on the sea. Listen to the sounds of the sea. Now, become aware of Jesus who is here with you on this boat, holding your hand. Say to Him, softly, "Jesus, thank You that You are here with me."



WORD

(Ask the children to help you tell the story. Show the different moves to them before you tell the story.)

"One day Jesus told his disciples to get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake. After sending his disciples and all the other people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. Night fell while Jesus was still praying there alone.

By this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, *(move left and right as if on a boat on a rough sea)* because the wind was blowing against it. *(blow as if there is a strong wind)*

Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. *(shiver and act scared)* 'It's a ghost!' they said and screamed with fear. *(scream)*

Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Have courage!' he said. 'It is Me. Don't be afraid! Then Peter spoke up. 'Lord, if it is really You, order me to come out on the water to you.' 'Come!' answered Jesus.

So Peter got out of the boat *(stand up and take a step out of an imaginary boat)* and started walking on the water to Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid *(shiver and act scared)* and started to sink down in the water. 'Save me, Lord!' he cried. At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him *(take each other's hands)* and said: 'How little faith you have! Why did you doubt?'

They both got into the boat, *(get back into the imaginary boat and sit down again)* and the wind died

down. Then all the disciples in the boat worshipped Jesus. 'Truly you are the Son of God!' they said."

The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how the disciples felt about the storm.
2. I wonder how Peter felt when he first stepped out of the boat.
3. I wonder why it is now always easy to believe.
4. I wonder if you have ever done a brave thing like Peter because you trusted Jesus.
5. I wonder what the most important thing in this story is.



WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

- ✍ Build a boat: Give each child a sponge, toothpick/stick and paper. Let them make a sail by attaching/gluing the paper to the stick. Insert the pointy end of the stick into the sponge to make a boat and float it on the water.
- ✍ "Word search": Give each child a copy and let them do the word search.
- ✍ Peter walks on the water: Give each child 2 colouring pictures, one of the boat and Jesus, the other one of Peter. Colour them in and cut out Peter, glue him to the stick. Cut a slit into the colouring picture of Jesus and the boat, put the stick with Peter through the slit and let Peter "walk" on water and "sink".

Prayer of blessing:

Let the children stand in a circle. Ask the Lord's help to trust Him always, especially in the difficult times.



Peter walks on water

D I S C I P L E S R
R E V A S E F I L M
M E W A L K S N N G
W H T J X T J N G T
A T P E O Q Y K W D
T I A R P S U S E J
E A M O T Q N R P Y
R F R T B Y B J R B

Peter
Jesus
walks
water
disciples
Lifesaver
faith
boat
storm

