

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 (or self-made binoculars)
- Picture of boat or a small toy boat
- Wax paper or tissue paper
- A pan or any shallow bowl (such as those used for cat litter)
- Pieces of sponge, toothpicks/skewer sticks (halved), strips of white or coloured paper with the words: "Jesus is my Lifesaver."
- Scissors, glue, colouring pictures, colouring pencils
- Dish or something with water in which sponges can float
- Popsicle sticks

Use the masking tape to stick a boat shape on the floor before the meeting so that the children can sit in the boat during the meeting. Hang the picture of Peter walking on the water in the front of the room where you are presenting. Cover it with wax paper so that the image is not clearly visible. Pack chairs in a boat shape and take brooms/sticks to row with.



Welcome

The children all get into the "boat" formed by the masking tape, ready to row. Everyone will row at the same time while singing the song "Row, row, row your boat":

"Row, row, row your boat / Gently down the stream / Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily / Life is but a dream."

The children must repeat this, but each time row faster and faster until the leader stops them.

Have the children take off their shoes and stand in a line. Put the pan with a little water in front of them. The first child steps into the pan and then walks on the cement/anywhere where their footprints will be visible. The rest of the children follow the first child and try to walk in the same footsteps as the first child. If someone has accidentally stepped on another footprint, the children who follow can decide which footprints they choose to follow.

Another option: stick footprints on the floor and children must walk on footprints.

Just as we now tried to walk in each other's wet footsteps, there was someone in the Bible who tried to follow Jesus' footsteps by wanting to walk on the water, just like Jesus. Who knows who it was? (*Give opportunity for answers.*) Yes, it was Peter. (*Show hand gesture for Peter.*)

(First hold up the binoculars and ask the children what they are. Give an opportunity for answers. Explain that binoculars help you see something that is far away more clearly. You can see something that is far away as if it is close to you.)

Have you ever seen something that was far away, but you couldn't quite see what it was? (*E.g. something that is high in the tree, something far on the sea or something high in the sky. Give the children an opportunity to answer.*)

(Now point to the picture that has wax paper over it. Ask the children what they can see in the picture. Allow for answers.) Sometimes it's hard to see things clearly until someone helps us understand what we're looking at. Today we are going to tell the story of Peter who, together with the other disciples, saw something strange – but when they realised what they were seeing, Peter wanted to do something...

Before we listen to this story, let's catch our breath on the sea.



Worship

Settle-down ritual:

Let the children close their eyes and listen to background sounds of the sea:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czry9aZBvQY>

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)* Early the next 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 the 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.”

Children 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 not 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 you liked most about this story.



Working and Playing

- Peter walks on water: Give the 2 colouring pictures to each child: one with the boat and Jesus; the other with Peter. Let them colour it. Cut out the picture of Peter and glue it to a popsicle stick. Cut a line in the picture of Jesus walking on water. Push the popsicle stick with Peter through the opening and let Peter “walk” on the water and “sink”.
- “Word search”: Give each child a handout and let them search for the words.
- Build a Boat: Give each child a sponge, half a skewer and a strip of paper with the words “Jesus is my Lifesaver”. Let the children make their own sails by gluing the paper strip to the stick. Press the stick into the sponge and put it on the water to sail.

Closing prayer to end the session

Let the children get their feet wet for the last time and stand in a circle. Ask the Lord to help us to always trust Him, even in the difficult times in our lives.



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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

