

Vacation Church School  
Heroes Unit #2  
**Faith**

**Lesson:** Peter

Matthew 14:22-31

*...Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.*

*Matthew 14:28*

**Goals:** By the end of the lesson each student should:

1. Know the name Peter.
2. Know that the story of Peter is found in the Bible.
3. Know that we can have great faith like Peter if we do not doubt.
4. Retell the events of the story.

**Materials and Preparation Needed:**

**Story:**

- ❑ Plastic dishpan
- ❑ Toy boat
- ❑ Several large wooden clothes pins
- ❑ Blue food coloring
- ❑ Q tips
- ❑ Small plastic or Styrofoam bowls
- ❑ Cloth remnants or paper towels
- ❑ Wood glue
- ❑ Yarn: brown, orange, black and yellow
- ❑ Scissors
- ❑ Several small round headed wooden clothespins
- ❑ Several toy boats
- ❑ Play dough
- ❑ Prepare:
  1. Make play dough
    - 1) Mix: 3 cups water, 2 Tablespoons Cream of Tartar, 3 Tablespoons oil, 3 cups flour
    - 2) Combine and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly.
    - 3) When dough starts pulling away from the sides of the pan to form a ball, remove from heat.
    - 4) Cool enough to be able to touch the dough.
    - 5) Knead until smooth.

- 6) If you want different colors of dough, separate into balls and add various colors of food coloring.
  - 7) Store in airtight container, will last for several weeks in the refrigerator.
2. Make Jesus and Peter and several other figures by drawing faces on the round heads of the large clothes pins.
  3. Cut small squares of cloth remnant to glue around the figures or use squares of heavy paper towel.
  4. Apply glue to the "robes" and attach to the figures.
  5. If using paper towels color the robe material with markers. (Most artists use blue and white to depict Jesus.)
  6. Cut small strips of hair, yarn or doll hair(ask Craft teacher) and glue to the top of the figures.
  7. Mound play dough into a mountain.

### **Optional Activities:**

#### **Picture Review:**

- Color the following pictures
- 1. Jesus telling disciples to go ahead of him in the boat while he remains on the shore.
- 2. Jesus sees the storm arise.
- 3. Jesus walking on the water.
- 4. Peter coming to him.
- 5. Peter beginning to sink.
- 6. Jesus bringing Peter to the boat.
- Optional-copy pictures for each student to take home.

#### **Craft: Peter Walks On Water**

- Miniature boats(one per student)
- Blue Jello(enough to fill every student's bowl)
- Small styrofoam bowl or margarine tub(one per student)
- Small round head wooden clothespin(one per student)
- Cloth remnants or Reinforced paper towel(Cheap ones will shred)
- Markers
- Q tips
- Scissors
- Wood glue
- Prepare:

1. Make a batch of blue Jello according to the finger Jello recipe to get stiff Jello.
2. Pour Jello into the Styrofoam bowls or margarine tubs.
3. With Marker, draw faces on the heads of the small wooden clothespins.(Child may do this themselves later.)
4. Make a sample craft by making a figure for Peter, just as you did for the story but use small round headed wooden clothespin.
5. When the Jello has hardened, set a little boat on top of the Jello and stand Peter in the Jello as if he is walking on water.
6. Make extra pan of finger Jello so students won't be tempted to eat their craft.

### **Outside Activity:**

Peter Says-Play just like Simon Says.

### **Memory Verse Activity:**

- 1-4 large pieces of blue poster board or white board
- Blue Crayon or Marker
- Blue Construction Paper
- Baggies
- Prepare:
  1. Cut large waves from poster board.
  2. On each wave print a word or words of the memory verse and scripture reference.
- For take home Memory Verse packets:
  1. Cut waves out of blue construction paper.
  2. Write memory verse words on them.
  3. Put waves into baggies for each student to take home.

### **Introduction:**

Set out tub of water and various items, floating and non-floating.

*Take off shoes.*

I have several things here. Some of them float and some of them don't. Which one do you think will float in water?

*Let kids pick different items and test them to see if they will float.*

Now that we tried all these little things lets try something big. Do you think if I stood on water that I would float? Do you think I would stay on top of the water or would I sink?

*Step in water.*

I sunk right to the bottom didn't I? A person can't walk on top of the water without sinking unless God helps them can he? Well, God helped Peter, our Bible hero.

*Hold up the Bible.*

He helped Peter do something really special on water. Let's find out what happened.

### Story:

Put blue food coloring to make it look like the sea.

One day Jesus had been talking to people all day.

*Hold up figure of Jesus.*

He was very tired. He needed to rest and pray. "Go ahead without me," Jesus told Peter and the other disciples. "I'll catch up to you."

So off went Peter and the disciples.

*Stick small mounds of play dough to bottom of the boat.*

*Stand Peter and the other disciple figures up in the play dough.*

*Move boat across tub of water.*

Jesus went up onto a mountain to pray.

*Walk Jesus up play dough mountain and stand Him in the dough.*

Jesus prayed in the mountain all the rest of that day. It was getting dark. He decided to catch up with the disciples.

Peter and the other disciples were back on the boat going across the sea. A storm came up. Big waves started to rock the boat.

*Rock the boat with splashing waves.*

Then Peter and the other disciples looked. Someone was walking toward the boat.

*Move figure of Jesus across the water toward boat.*

On top of the water! The disciples were afraid. "Who can it be?" they said.

"A person can't walk on water!"

"Don't be afraid," Jesus called out, "It's me!"

"It looks like Jesus," Peter thought. "But I am not sure." Then Peter had an idea.

"Master, if it's really you. Call me to walk to you on the water."

"Come," said Jesus

Peter believed Jesus. "God can help me walk on water," he thought. "I'll do it!" Peter got out of the boat.

*Take Peter out of the boat and start to walk across the water.*

He started to walk to Jesus.

*Move Peter across the water.*

He was getting closer! For that minute Peter believed in God so much that he was walking on top of the water just like Jesus! The wind was blowing hard.

*Make whoosing noise.*

The waves got bigger! Peter listened to the wind. He looked down at the waves. Peter got scared. He started to sink!

*Lower Peter a little in the water.*

"Help me!" Peter cried out to Jesus. Jesus reached out His hand to Peter and lifted him back up. Jesus brought Peter back to the boat. The wind stopped. Everything was quiet

*Put Jesus and Peter in the boat.*

"Why didn't you keep believing in God?" Jesus asked Peter.

Peter was sorry. From then on Peter worked hard to believe in God.

You will probably never walk on water like Peter did but sometimes you will be scared just like Peter was when he saw those big waves. God can help you when you're scared just like He did Peter.

### **Optional Activities:**

#### **Picture Review:**

1. Hold up pictures in story order.
2. Ask students to retell the story.

#### **Craft: Peter Walks on Water**

1. Pass out Clothespins, one per student.
2. Set out small bowls/containers of blue food coloring.
3. Pass out Qtips.
4. Have kids paint clothes on the Clothespins.
5. Help them glue on hair.
6. Have the students stand Peter in the Jello.
7. Have them set their boats in the water.
8. If there is extra time, the kids could color the coloring pages.

### **Outside Game: Peter Says**

1. Play the game like Simon Says.
2. Have Peter tell the kids to do some of the actions of the story.
3. Some examples:
  - "Peter says,"
    - Climb a mountain.
    - Pray
    - Walk across water
    - Look to see who is walking on water
    - Look afraid
    - Climb out of the boat
    - Walk on Water
    - Look at waves
    - Be afraid
    - Sink
    - Reach out to take Jesus' hand.
    - Get back in the boat

### **Memory Verse Activity:**

*...Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.*

*Matthew 14:28*

1. Lay out the words of the memory verse written on the waves.
2. Have kids walk across the waves with their fingers as they say the words of the memory verse.
3. Send home memory verse bags for kids to work on.
4. Print the following words on blue paper.

*...Lord, if it be thou,  
bid me come unto thee  
on the water.*

*Matthew 14:28*

