

## Vacation Church School

Life of Christ #1

**Lesson:** Peter Takes A Step of Faith, (*needs to be after Jesus Stills the Storm*)

Matthew: 14:22-31

**Memory Verse:** *...with God nothing shall be impossible or maybe a verse about faith....*

**Goals:** By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

1. Know the story comes from the Bible.
2. Remember the name of the main character.
3. Relate the events of the story.
4. Remember the memory verse.

**Vocabulary:**

1. faith

**Materials Needed:**

Introduction:

- Dishpan
- Several items that float: a cork, a plastic lid, a Popsicle stick, a Styrofoam peanut, a toothpick...whatever you can find that can float.
- Several things that do not float: a rock, a nail, a pen, a tool...

Story:

- Pictures: Jesus telling the disciples to go ahead of Him in the boat while He remains on shore, Jesus seeing the storm arise, Jesus walking on water, Peter coming to Him, Peter begins to sink, Jesus bringing Peter to the boat.

Review Bible Baseball Quiz:

- Four chairs or pillows
- Questions listed with the activity

Activity Believe It Or Not:

- Workseet

Craft: Storm on the Sea of Galilee Picture:

- Powdered black tempera paint
- Storm on the Sea of Galilee pictures(started in Jesus Stills the Storm lesson)
- Markers/Crayons
- Ice Cubes

**Introduction:**

*Fill the dishpan with water and set out floating and sinkable items.*

*Pick up one of the floating items.*

**You all know a little bit about science. You know that some things float and some sink. Why don't you take turns choosing from these things set out here and test their ability to float.**

*Have children test various items in the water.*

**You probably noticed that the heavier items sunk and the lighter ones floated. God created our world to operate under certain laws. Usually, heavy things sink and light things float. A person is too heavy to stay on top of the water if he is standing up and his feet are supporting all his weight. If someone stood on top of the water it would be a great miracle. Well something like that did happen to Peter, our Bible hero, which we are studying today. He was one of Jesus' disciples.**

**Story:**

**Peter and the other disciples had helped Jesus that day. It had been a long day. Already tired and needing a rest, Jesus and the disciples had tried to find a quiet place. But they had been followed by the people who wanted to be with Jesus. 5,000 people had spent the day with Jesus, listening to Him preach; coming to Him with their afflictions. He was very tired.**

*Show picture Jesus sending the disciples on ahead.*

**“Go ahead of me in the ship to the other side of the lake,” Jesus told Peter and the other disciples, “I will send the multitudes away.” After He had sent the great crowd home a weary Jesus walked up the mountain to rest and talk to God. Later in the evening Jesus was ready to join His disciples again. Peter and the other disciples were in a boat, well on their way to the other shore on the opposite side of the lake.**

*Picture of Jesus watching storm on water.*

**Jesus watched as a storm descended on the Sea of Galilee. He was not afraid of the waves whipped up by the storm gusts. Jesus knew the power of God was with Him. He began to walk across the water toward the boat where Peter and the other disciples were.**

*Picture of disciples seeing Jesus walking on the water.*

**Peter and the other disciples saw Jesus from a distance. They were frightened. They knew no ordinary person could walk on water. “It’s a spirit!” they cried. As he drew closer to the boat Jesus called out. “Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.” “It looks like Jesus,” Peter thought. “If it’s you Mater,” Peter cried, “call me to come to you on the water.”**

*Picture of Jesus calling Peter to Him on the water.*

**“Come.” Jesus said. In a moment of great faith Peter got out of the boat. He stepped onto the water. He did not sink! Peter began to walk toward Jesus! Then something happened.**

*Picture of Peter becoming afraid and beginning to sink.*

**Peter took His eyes off Jesus and saw the large waves lapping at his feet. Peter got scared. “I can’t stay up in these great waves! He thought. Peter began to sink beneath the water. “Lord, save me!”**

**Picture of Jesus stretching out His hand to Peter.**

**Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught Peter. “O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” Jesus said.**

*Picture of Jesus helping Peter to the boat.*

**Jesus helped Peter back to the boat and the winds quieted and the waves settled. Then Peter and all the disciples said, “Truly you are the Son of God.”**

### **Discussion:**

**At first Peter reacted without thinking. He just had faith. When he took his eyes off Jesus and saw the wind and the waves he was afraid. Whenever you are afraid, don't be distracted by the storms of life. Sometimes getting help with your problems might seem as impossible as walking on water. With God nothing is impossible. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Remember that He will be with you and help you.**

### **Review Activity: Bible Baseball Quiz (\*may use questions and play Wheel of Fortune from *Jesus Feeds 5,000* lesson if the teacher prefers.)**

1. Set out four chairs/pillows for the bases and home plate. If the class has four or more kids, divide into teams. If there are only 2-3 in the class have each child play as a team and just try to get to home plate first.

#### *Rules:*

- Each team gets three at bats each turn. Each "At Bat" is answering a question from the story.
- Each correct answer is a base run.
- After three questions, play switches to the next team.
- If a player misses a question, the other team gets a chance to get a player on base by answering the question correctly.
- If two players end up on the base at the same time, the first player to land on the base will stand behind the chair/pillow until he answers a question correctly and moves to the next base. (Students could share a pillow if large enough.)
- If two or three teams make it to home plate without any strike outs, even if one team gets there first, the game will be considered a tie.

\*Optional: Prizes may be awarded.

#### *Questions:*

1. How many people did Jesus preach to that day? (5,000)
2. How did Jesus feel after that long day? (*tired*)
3. What did Jesus do after His disciples left? (*Went up a mountain to pray.*)
4. When did Jesus feel ready to return to His disciples? (*Later in the evening.*)
5. What was the weather like on the lake? (*windy*)
6. What did the disciples think when they saw Jesus walking from a distance? (*They thought He was a spirit.*)
7. What did Peter say to Jesus? (*Come.*)
8. What did Peter do when Jesus spoke to him? (*got out of the boat and started to walk to Jesus.*)
9. What did Peter have when he first got out of the boat? What would it take to step out into water and believe you would not fall? (*faith*)
10. What happened when Peter took his eyes off of Jesus? (*He began to sink beneath the waves.*)
11. What did Peter say to Jesus? (*Save Me!*)
12. What did Jesus do when Peter called out to Him? (*He stretched out His hand and lifted Peter.*)
13. What did Jesus help Peter do next? (*Walk to the boat.*)
14. What did Jesus say to Peter? (*O ye of little faith, why did you doubt?*)

15. What did Peter and the other disciples say to Jesus then? (*Truly you are the Son of God.*)
16. Who does Jesus want us to keep our eyes on when we have troubles in our own lives? (*Him.*)

**Craft:**

1. Pass pictures back.
2. Have kids draw a boat and Peter walking on the water toward Jesus.
3. Tell them to leave room to make storm clouds and wind in the sky.
4. When they have finished drawing, sprinkle black tempera paint on the top part of the picture, have kids use ice cubes to swirl black storm clouds and whirling winds. (If doing a mural, have different kids draw different parts of the picture, some draw the boat while others draw Jesus and Peter. Some could draw disciples in the boat. Let everyone have a chance to swirl storm clouds and winds. Kids could alternate between mural and *Believe It Or Not* worksheet.)

**Activity:**

1. Pass out *Believe It Or Not* sheets.
2. Have each child finish the story in his own words. To help poor writers and spellers without embarrassing them, the teacher could ask the children which he prefers; writing the story himself or dictating it to the teacher. Make sure the children understand that either way is acceptable.

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