



Date: _____

Series: **Jesus Takes Care of Me**
Winter Year 2, Lesson 39

Jesus Walks on Water

Bible Event: Matthew 14:22-33

Take Home Point: *WHEN I'M SCARED – *I tell Jesus.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: I will tell Jesus my problems because he knows and loves me.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that all people – even adults – get scared sometimes. We might be afraid of something (like a dog) or afraid that something is going to happen (*like getting hurt*). No matter what we are afraid of, we can always tell Jesus. When we pray to Jesus about our fears, he always listens and helps us feel better. Kids will take home the point: ***WHEN I'M SCARED – *I tell Jesus.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Your choice, if available.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible event by telling it from a first person point of view. Explain to the children that they will meet an actor, someone pretending to be a person in today's Bible event. Ask the children to put on their imagination hats so they can imagine that this really is the person in the Bible event.

Peter can be sitting in a boat while telling the story, if desired. Have the boat (or a box made into a boat) sitting on a blue tablecloth or towel.

Peter: My name is Peter. I am one of Jesus' disciples from a long time ago. I have an amazing event to tell you about Jesus. You see, before Jesus died on the cross and rose again, he spent a lot of time with me and the other disciples. One time, Jesus told us to get into our boat and go on ahead of him to the other side of the lake while he went to pray by himself.

We did what Jesus said and got into the boat and started across the lake. But night came and it got dark and windy and stormy. The boat began to rock. Can you imagine what it was like on a boat during a wind storm?

While Peter shakes the boat back and forth, have the children make the sound of wind and rain by blowing and whistling with their mouths and slapping their hands against their legs or the floor.

We were worried because Jesus was still alone praying and we were way out on the lake as he told us.

Just then, we saw someone walking across the lake on top of the water, heading straight for us! “It’s a ghost!” we said and starting yelling out because we were so afraid! But it wasn’t a ghost. It was Jesus walking on the water! He said to us, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” We were so relieved that it was Jesus!

Then I got brave. I said to Jesus, “Lord, if it is you, then tell me to come to you on the water.” And Jesus told me to come! I couldn’t believe it! I climbed out of the boat and started walking on the water!

Climb out of the boat and start to walk on the “water.”

Just as I started to walk on the water, the wind blew again.

Have the kids make wind sounds.

I was very frightened of the wind and the storm, and I started to sink into the water.

Drop to knees on “water” and thrash around.

I was so scared that I had to tell Jesus I needed help. I said, “Lord, save me!” Jesus instantly reached out and grabbed my arm and saved me.

Stand up on the water.

Then Jesus said to me, “You of little faith, why did you doubt me?” I felt very, very sorry that I had doubted Jesus. I should have known he would take care of me.

Then we climbed into the boat and all of the other disciples were amazed.

Climb back into boat and sit down.

The wind disappeared and we all began to worship Jesus saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

When I was frightened on that lake, I knew Jesus was the one person who could help me. That is still true for you today. Even though Jesus may not be here where you can see him, he still helps us every day. When you are scared or afraid, tell Jesus! He will always listen to your prayers and help you get through your fears, no matter what. Remember: *WHEN I'M SCARED – I tell Jesus.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide each child with a small amount of blue Jell-O (*regular or a jigler square*). Give the children each a gummy bear and have them “walk” it across the “water” before eating.

Drama Zone: Using a boat (*or box made into a boat*), a blue tablecloth or towel, and robes, allow children to reenact the scene.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to tell each other things they are afraid of and have them pray for each other.

Felt Zone: Use felt board and materials to show the story of Jesus walking on water from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #122, “Peter Saved From Drowning,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Create a storm bottle. Each child will need a small, empty water bottle with lid. (*Removing the water bottle label is preferable, but not essential.*) Fill bottle approximately half-full of water and drop 1-2 drops of blue food color into each bottle. (*Or have blue water already prepared to pour into the bottles.*) Have small triangles pre-cut out of sponge, roughly 1 and 1/2 inches long and 3/4 an inch wide at the base. Let children drop one sponge “boat” into their bottle. Have an adult place one drop of Superglue into the lid before securing the lid to the bottle. Once lids are tightly fastened, attach a pre-made label, “Jesus rescued Peter – Jesus rescues me.” Allow children to shake and swish their bottles to create stormy conditions for their “boats.”

Play Zone: Provide tubs of water with boats, water toys, and various sinking and floating objects.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus walking on water.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “Jesus Walks on Water” coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes out with a baseball cap on. She is going to start T-ball pretty soon and she is scared. Bubba is a good baseball player and she does not know if she will be as good as he is. She is afraid of lots of things. What if she swings and misses the ball? What if she doesn't know the rules? What if she throws the ball to the wrong spot?

The presenter comforts Judy and tells her he understands what it is like to be afraid. He asks the kids if they know what to do when you are feeling scared. He explains that the best thing to do is to tell Jesus and ask for help. The presenter invites the kids to help tell Judy about the time Peter was scared and asked Jesus for help.

The presenter concludes by explaining that we all are scared sometimes – even grown-ups. When we pray and tell Jesus we are scared, he can comfort us and take our fears away. Jesus always listens to us, especially when we're scared. Always remember:
***WHEN I'M SCARED – I tell Jesus.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross your hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- robe or headpiece for Peter
- boat or box made into a boat
- blue tablecloth or towel

Action Zones:

Snack:

- blue Jell-O or blue Jell-O jigglers
- gummy bears

Drama:

- robes and headpieces
- boat or box made into a boat
- blue tablecloth or towel

Craft:

- small, empty water bottles, with or without labels
- blue food color
- pitchers of water
- sponges, pre-cut small triangles roughly 1 and 1/2 inches long and 3/4 an inch wide at the base
- superglue
- pre-made label “Jesus rescued Peter – Jesus rescues me”

Play:

- tubs of water
- water toys including toy boats
- towels
- floating and sinking objects

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #122, “Peter Saved From Drowning,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt.*)

Coloring Page:

- “Jesus Walks on Water”

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet
- baseball cap

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books