

LIFE POINT
Jesus has
the power to do
things no one
else can do.

JESUS WALKED ON WATER

JESUS



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus performed miracles through the power of God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Matthew 14:22-33

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

September 22

UNIT VERSE

Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you through him.

Acts 2:22

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE

Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Matthew 14:31



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

This is a story about two men who walked on water. One succeeded, but the other failed. The one who failed did so on his own. In fact, he was only able to stay above the current as long as he did because of his faith in the One who allowed it. Only Jesus had the power to allow Peter to walk on the waves before he began to sink. Why did Jesus come to the disciples on the water? Why did Peter want to step out of the boat and go to Him? Why did Peter sink?

Jesus sent the Twelve across the water in a boat while He dismissed the crowd who had followed Him. Then Jesus went away alone to pray on a mountain. Some time between 3 and 6 a.m., Jesus returned to His disciples on the water. The disciples thought their Lord was a ghost, but when Jesus identified Himself, Peter wanted to join Him. With his eyes on Jesus, Peter walked out to meet Him. Diverting his attention to the wind, Peter began to sink. In fear he cried out to his Savior. Immediately, Jesus reached out and took hold of Peter—the Savior saved him! Jesus opened Peter’s eyes to his failure and revealed his “little faith.” Back in the boat, the wind stopped, and a worship service ensued.

Where do you place yourself in this story? Are you clinging to the boat with eyes closed or looking around to see what is happening? Do you dare venture out to meet Jesus? How much faith do you have in Christ?

How can you lead kids in your group to understand it is OK when they feel powerless to do what God has called them to do because Jesus has power to do things no one else can? How will you explain “storms” and how Christ is the only One who can rescue us from them?



PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- » Challenge each child to stand a few feet away from the upside-down chair and toss a paper plate ring so that it falls onto one of the chair legs.
- » When a child rings one of the chair legs, instruct him to take the “New Testament Book Card” and locate the book in the Bible.
- » Replace cards that kids take with new cards.
- » Increase the level of difficulty by challenging each person to toss in different ways, such as by using the non-dominant hand or tossing under his leg.



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- » Teach kids a simple magic trick.
 - Enlist a volunteer to sprinkle some pepper into a cup of water and try to make the pepper separate by inserting one finger into the cup of water. (Nothing will happen.)
 - Declare that the magic power of your finger will make the pepper separate.
 - Stick your secretly soap-covered finger in water. (The pepper will separate.)
- » Allow kids to guess how the magic trick worked. Explain that you secretly rubbed soap on your finger before the activity. The soap caused the pepper to separate.
- » Distribute supplies and invite kids to practice the trick.
- » Explain that magic tricks always have secrets behind the tricks. The soap was the secret to the trick. Miracles are different. They are things that only God can do.
- » Comment that today kids will hear how Jesus has the power to do things no one else can do, including miracles.

» Pack Item 3: “New Testament Book Cards”—Tape one card to each leg of an upside-down chair. Keep the rest of the cards nearby to tape new cards as needed.

» masking tape

» chair

» scissors

» several sturdy paper plates—Cut the center from the plates to make rings.

» clear cups

» water

» pepper

» liquid soap—Just before the activity, secretly coat one finger with soap.

» Option: “Jesus Walked on Water” coloring page (Printables)



MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- » Missionaries often share the gospel in places that are not their homes. The Rigney family are missionaries who live in London, England.
- » Show the “Map of United Kingdom” and the “London Landmarks.” Ask kids if they recognize any of the landmarks. Explain that millions of people live in the city of London. These people need Jesus.
- » Lead the kids to pray for the Rigney family as they tell many people in London the good news of Jesus. Pray that the people of London will trust in Jesus as their Savior.

» Printables:
“International Missions: London” (“Map of United Kingdom,” “London Landmarks”)



STUDY THE BIBLE



- Pack Items 1, 2, 5: "Unit 1 Banner," "Unit 1 Verse," "God's Plan for Me Poster"
- Teaching Picture 4
- Music
- Videos
- fan with adjustable speeds
- large bowl of water
- small toy boat
- towel

Bible Story Prep Steps
Set up the fan so that it blows across the surface of the water and creates waves. Place a small toy boat on the water. You will want to practice this ahead of time. Place the towel under the bowl to soak up water that might splash out.

1. BIBLE STORY

- » Display the "Unit 1 Banner" and lead kids to sing "Words to Use."
- » Show the bowl of water, fan, and boat. Ask the kids what they think will happen to the boat when the fan blows across the water.
- » Explain that in today's Bible story a boat was caught in a windstorm in the middle of the water. Encourage the kids to imagine they are on the boat as you tell the story.
- » Open the Bible to Matthew 14 and tell the story. Begin with the fan off. As the story progresses, adjust the speed of the fan to show the strength of the windstorm. Turn the fan off when Jesus and Peter get into the boat.

BIBLE STORY: JESUS WALKED ON WATER

Jesus had just fed a crowd of over 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:17-21). When that busy day ended, Jesus sent His disciples ahead of Him in their boat, and He sent the people home. Then Jesus went up on a mountain by Himself to pray.

When evening came, Jesus was alone, and the boat was a long way from the land. The wind blew so hard that big waves beat against the boat. Early in the morning Jesus began to walk on the water toward the boat.

When the disciples saw someone walking on the water, they cried out in terror.

"It's a ghost!" they shouted.

Immediately, Jesus spoke to them. "It is I. Don't be afraid."

Peter called out, "Lord, if it's You, command me to walk to You on the water."

Jesus said, "Come!"

Peter climbed out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter felt the wind, he was afraid and began to sink. Peter cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and caught Peter. Jesus said, "You have little faith. Why did you doubt?"

As soon as Peter and Jesus climbed in the boat, the wind stopped. The disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "Truly, You are the Son of God."

— BASED ON MATTHEW 14:22-33

LIFE POINT

Jesus has the power to do things no one else can do.

2. REVIEW

- » Display the Teaching Picture. Ask: “What would happen if someone tried to walk on top of water?” Talk about how Jesus did something that no one else can do.
- » Ask: “Can you imagine how Peter must have felt when he saw Jesus walking on the water? Peter leaped out of the boat and started walking to Jesus. Then Peter felt the wind and became afraid. He began to sink. Immediately Jesus, the Savior, rescued Peter. Jesus reached out His hand and saved Peter.”
- » Remind the kids that Jesus performed miracles because He is God’s Son.
- » Invite the kids to stand in a circle. Instruct them that every time you ask a Review Question, each person should tell the person on his right the answer and listen to the person on his left tell the answer.
- » Ask kids the Review Questions.
- » **Option:** Show the “Notebook Bible Story” video.

3. LIFE ACTION

- » Explain that Jesus performed miracles through the power of God. Walking on water is something Jesus alone has the power to do. Peter was able to walk on the water because Jesus invited him and gave him the power to do it. When Peter felt the wind, he became afraid and began to sink. Immediately, Jesus, the Savior, reached out His hand and saved Peter.
- » Ask the kids to share other things that only Jesus has the power to do.
- » Remind kids that Jesus alone has the power to save people from sin.
- » Refer to the “God’s Plan for Me Poster” to talk about Jesus’ power to rescue people from sin.
- » Emphasize the truth that Jesus alone is the only way to be saved. Mention that people cannot trust in their own good works to be saved.
- » Pray, praising God for the things that Jesus alone has the power to do. Thank God for sending Jesus to be the Savior and rescue people from sin.
- » **Option:** Show the “Mooseberry Life Application” video.

4. UNIT VERSE

- » Guide kids to read the “Unit 1 Verse” together.
- » Lead kids to form pairs.
- » Invite partners to take turns saying every other word of the verse.
- » If time allows, direct kids to form new pairs and say the verse again.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- » What did Jesus do after the disciples got in the boat? (*sent the people home and went up on a mountain by Himself to pray*)
- » What did the disciples think when they saw Jesus walking on the water? (*It was a ghost!*)
- » Why do you think Peter wanted to walk to Jesus on the water? (*Answers will vary.*)
- » When did Peter begin to sink? (*when he felt the wind and became afraid*)
- » What happened when Peter called to Jesus for help? (*Jesus immediately caught him.*)
- » What happened when Jesus and Peter got in the boat? (*The wind stopped.*)

Option for Unit Verse:
Teach the weekly Bible verse, Matthew 14:31.



LIVE IT OUT

CHOICE 1

- › Pack Item 7: “Beat the World Record”
- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › bubble gum
- › ruler
- › 29 toilet paper rolls
- › 29 socks
- › 2 30-second timers or smartphones
- › frozen peas
- › tape measure
- › table
- › Set up 4 activity stations by placing the necessary supplies by the corresponding “Beat the World Record” poster.

CHOICE 1

BEAT THE WORLD RECORD

- » Instruct kids to complete “Jesus Did It” on their Kids Activity Pages.
- » Encourage the kids to share examples of things that only Jesus can do.
- » Point out the “Beat the World Record” activity stations you set up. Explain that kids will try to beat real world records as a way to remember that Jesus has the power to do things that no one else can do.
- » Lead kids to form pairs. One partner at a time will try to beat the record.
Note: Two of the stations are timed events. Instruct one partner to time the other partner and then lead partners to switch roles.
- » Encourage kids to follow the rules at each station. Keep track of which kids get closest to each world record.
- » Compliment the kids on their amazing abilities and congratulate the winners of each station.
- » Mention that these events are silly, and they don’t make an eternal difference. Contrast that to Jesus who has incredible power to do things no one else can do, including saving people from sin and offering life forever with Him.
- » Challenge kids to tell someone this week about the amazing power of Jesus.

CHOICE 2

ONLY JESUS SAVES GAME

- › Pack Item 8: “Save Me Cards”—Place the cards in a gift bag.
- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › gift bag

- » Guide kids to complete “Jesus Did It” and “Word Swap” on their Kids Activity Pages.
- » Encourage the kids to share examples of things that only Jesus can do.
- » Tell kids that some people believe that certain actions that they do will save them from their sin. They don’t understand that only Jesus has the power to save people from sin.
- » Show the gift bag and tell kids that the bag contains cards with some of these actions.
- » Form pairs of kids. Invite pairs to take turns selecting a “Save Me Card” and acting out the action on the card for the other kids to guess.
- » After a pair of kids acts out each card, discuss how that action is not able to save someone from his sin.
- » Emphasize that all the things the kids acted out are good things we should want to do, but doing good things will not save us from sin. Jesus alone has the power to save from sin. Jesus has the power to do things no one else can do.

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CHOICE 3**IN PETER'S SHOES FOOTPRINTS**

- » Instruct kids to complete “Jesus Did It” and “Word Swap” on their Kids Activity Pages.
- » Invite the kids to share examples of things that only Jesus can do.
- » Distribute copies of “In Peter’s Shoes.” Direct the kids to cut out their footprints and write *Peter* on one side and *Me* on the other side.
- » As you guide kids to retell the Bible story, lead them to write on the *Peter* side words that describe how Peter might have felt:
 - while in the boat seeing a “ghost,”
 - while stepping out of the boat,
 - while walking on the water to Jesus,
 - while sinking in fear and doubt,
 - while being rescued by the Savior,
 - while getting back in the boat with Jesus and realizing the wind has stopped,
 - while worshiping Jesus.
- » On the *Me* side of the footprints, kids will write words and phrases that describe how they feel knowing that Jesus has the power to do things that no one else can do.
- » As time allows, invite volunteers to share the *Me* side of their footprints.
- » Challenge the kids to show their completed footprints to their families and share what they learned about having faith in Jesus’ amazing power.

WRAP UP

- » Review the things that Jesus has the power to do that no one else can do, emphasizing Jesus’ power to save from sin.
- » Pray, praising Jesus for His miraculous power.
- » Give kids One Conversation™ pages.

CHOICE 3

- » Pack Item 9: “In Peter’s Shoes”
- » Kids Activity Pages
- » pencils
- » heavyweight paper
- » scissors