

## Reality – Bible Lesson for June 21, 2020 – Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### New Testament

#### Section Two: His Love for All People

#### Lesson 4: Miracles – Jesus Walks on Water

1. **Lesson: Miracles – Jesus Walks on Water**
2. **Scripture:** Matthew 14:22-36; Mark 6:45-56; John 6:16-21
3. **Memory Verse:** "Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27
4. **The Beginner's Bible:** Pages 364 - 370
5. **Materials useful in teaching the lesson – Beginning Activity – Object Lesson:** a bowl of water; a few paper clips; some dishwashing detergent **Craft: Elementary** – craft templates of "Jesus Walks on Water" made on white cardstock; jumbo craft sticks – one for each child

#### **Craft:**

<https://craftingthewordofgod.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/jesus-walks-on-water1.pdf>

<https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2014/01/07/jesus-walks-on-water/>

#### **Videos you can use to reinforce the story:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2t3-S6eSUU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG6I4fkB6wE>

**1. Prayer:** Pray with your children – then introduce the following object lesson and discussion:

**Say:** In our story today, we are going to learn about when the disciples – especially Peter – learned about how to walk. But it wasn't a walk in the neighborhood – it was a walk in faith. They learned that sometimes, even things that are impossible to do, become possible with a little faith – so here we go, our object lesson on faith...

We did a similar object lesson three weeks ago when we tried to float a paper clip on water. We found out that it didn't work because paper clips sink. (place the paper clip on top of the water in the bowl.) Nothing unusual there. But now, we're going to bend one paper clip to make a "holder" for a second paper clip to rest on.



## FLOATING PAPERCLIP science experiment

I'm going to place the second paper clip flat on the paper-clip-holder, and gently submerge the paper clips into the water. This time, the unbent paper clip will actually float on the surface of the water. (Gently place both paper clips on the water.)

So – the point of our object lesson is that, by ourselves, we can't do the "impossible". However, if we rest on Jesus, or have faith in Him (like the paper clip rests on the holder), He will enable us to do what we never thought we could.

But we also need to beware of "doubt". Just like Peter in the story, once he took his eyes off Jesus, he let doubt and fear invade his mind, and he started to sink.

(Place some dish detergent in the water around the floating paper clip. It will start to sink.)

We need to rest on Jesus in order to do whatever seems impossible to us (just like the paper clip holder was necessary). Doubt will cause us to lose our faith. (just like the dish detergent causes the floating paper clips to sink).

(The Science behind the Object Lesson...This object lesson on faith, or making bits of metal float on water, is all about surface tension of the water. The water molecules at the surface of water create really strong bonds with one another (stronger than the bonds between water molecules that aren't at the surface). Water actually has the [strongest surface tension](#) of any liquid other than mercury! Normally, the weight of the paperclips breaks through this, but when the paperclip is lowered into the water slowly, it isn't heavy enough to break the surface tension, so it's held in place. But if you tap the paperclip, it will drop to the bottom again. So, if you lay the paper clip flat on the water, and don't break the surface tension, the molecular cohesive bonds will actually support the weight of the paper clip. Dish detergent breaks down the cohesive bonds between the water molecules, which is why the paper clip will then sink if you add the detergent to the water.)

Jesus was trying to teach his disciples (and us) that God wants us to walk by faith. He may ask us to leave something comfortable to follow Him and He wants us to keep our eyes on Him at all times.

Now let's hear about how Jesus taught this amazing lesson during another storm on the Sea of Galilee.

## **2.Bible Story: (You can teach the story below and/or read it from "The Beginner's Bible": Pages – 364 - 370)**

Today we are going to learn another one of the most famous stories about Jesus in the Bible. The day that Jesus had multiplied the bread and the fish and fed over 5000 people had probably been an awfully long day and the disciples were, most likely, tired. The crowd that had seen Jesus do this miracle had wanted to make Jesus their King. The disciples may have even thought this was a good idea. But Jesus knew there were many other things that He wanted His disciples to learn and being the king of the multitude was not why He had come. He wanted to get His disciples away from the crowd and these ideas, so He told them to get into a boat and sail across the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida, a fishing village that was in the outskirts of Capernaum. Then Jesus sent the multitude of people away while He went into the mountains to pray.

At evening, the disciples' boat was well out into the lake and Jesus was alone on land. As you may remember from the lesson on "The Calming of the Storm," the Sea of Galilee has many violent storms that are caused by the rush of cold air that comes through the mountains and collides with the warm, moist air that rises off the surface of the water.

While the disciples were rowing on the lake, they were headed directly into the west wind, which often blew in the evening, and it was causing them not to travel very far. Jesus continued praying until past midnight but, as Mark tells us, as the disciples were rowing, and Jesus was watching them. "He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them." The disciples didn't know that Jesus saw the problems they were facing. In John 6:19, Scripture says, "They had rowed for much of the night and had only come about halfway across the lake." They had rowed for about three or three and one-half miles. This is the second time Jesus had allowed them to go through a storm. The first time He was with them in the boat, but this time they could not see Jesus.

In the faint light of the early dawn – the fourth watch of the night – (by Roman calculations, 3 – 6 A.M.), the disciples had been rowing for anywhere between six to nine hours. At this point, Jesus walked on the choppy surface of the water and went out to them. Their reaction was one of fear. They cried out because they were terrified. Jesus told them, "It is I; don't be afraid." The clause "It is I" is literally, "I Am," and is used by Jesus to let them know that He is God. They heard Jesus' voice and recognized Him.

Peter answered Jesus and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." Peter showed great boldness and faith. Jesus' answer was a simple, "Come." Matthew records that Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking on the water. But Peter's faith was challenged when he suddenly saw the waves being whipped about by the strong wind. He began to sink. This is a picture of faith – as long as he looked to Jesus he stayed afloat. But when he began to be afraid, he sank.

Peter cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out His hand and caught him and said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped Jesus, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

We learn a valuable lesson from Peter. When we completely trust in Jesus, we won't need to look at the storms of life but can focus only on Jesus. We don't need to look at or worry about the problems we have. That will only cause us to sink. But when we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can do amazing things in the middle of scary storms.

Jesus showed that He is Lord over everything. The disciples recognized who He is and worshipped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." **This was the first time the disciples called Jesus the Son of God.** Even though they had just been there at the feeding of the 5000, it was the miracle of Jesus walking on the water that, more than any other, convinced them that Jesus was really the Son of God. Also, this was the first time the disciples are said to have worshiped Jesus.

Do you know Jesus' voice? John 10:27 says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." God often speaks to us through His Word. The Bible is God's voice to us. If we hide it in our hearts, we will know what to do when we go through the storms in life.

Just as Jesus was there for His disciples in the storm, He prays for us through our storms in life. He'll come to us in the midst of the storm too – maybe when we least expect Him. As long as we keep our eyes upon Jesus and put our trust in Him, we will be okay.

### **3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:**

**Where did Jesus send His disciples?** (to the other side of Lake Galilee – to Bethsaida, by Capernaum)

**2. What did Jesus plan to do in the hills?** (pray)

**3. What trouble did the disciples have in the boat?** (Waves were getting big and the wind was blowing hard.)

**4. When did Jesus come to help the disciples?** (between three and six in the morning)

**5. How did the disciples feel when they first saw Jesus?** (afraid)

**6. What did Jesus say to the disciples?** (do not be afraid, have courage, He told them who He was)

**7. What did Peter want to do?** (go to Jesus)

**8. What happened when Peter got out of the boat?** (He walked on the water.)

**9. What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus, looked at the waves, and became afraid?** (He began to sink)

**9. What did the disciples say to Jesus when Jesus got into the boat?** (You are the Son of God.)

**10. What did the disciples do next?** (They worshiped Jesus)

### **4. Bible Application:**

**Craft: Elementary – Jesus Walks on the Water:**



### **Instructions**

Print the template on card stock.

2. Color and cut out both pieces, including the solid line on the boat piece.

3. Glue the figure onto a craft stick.

4. Stick the craft stick through the slit you made on the boat piece.

**5.Memory Verse:** Have the children say the memory verse one more time - "Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27

**Play** "Crazy Stand-Ups" to learn the verse. Have all the children stand up and repeat the verse who have...eaten breakfast, have blond hair, have a dog, like Brussels sprouts, who are a certain age, etc.

**6.Closing Prayer:** Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have.