

LESSON 22

Jesus Walks on Water

MATTHEW 14:25-34



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD WHO SAVES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**

Read Matthew 14:22–36 from the Scriptures or read story 100, “Jesus Walks on Water,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**

The Key Is in the Word

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large clear storage bin
- ✓ a large plastic bucket to transport water
- ✓ a plastic tarp or tablecloth
- ✓ several old towels to dry wet feet

4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**

Pray for the Sick

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**

7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 22—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**

9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **25 MIN**

Act Out the Scene

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes made from flat sheets and towels
- ✓ masking tape

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus prayed in his humanity—After feeding the multitude Jesus dismissed the crowds and made the disciples go on without him so that he could pray alone. Though Jesus was God, he lived a human life of dependence upon his Father in heaven. He did nothing of his own accord but only that which the Father directed him to do (John 5:19). Jesus often withdrew alone to pray after ministering to the crowds (Luke 5:15–16). Jesus’ example should guide us as we look to follow God. We have no greater weapon than prayer and no greater joy than our fellowship with God.

Jesus saved in his divinity—With the wind blowing against them, the disciples’ journey to the other side of the sea was slow. Unlike the last time there was a rough sea, Jesus was not with them in the boat to calm the wind and the waves. Suddenly they saw Jesus walking toward them on the waves. Terrified, they thought he was a ghost, but Peter called out, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus told him to come. It took faith to step out of the boat and into the waves. As long as his eyes were fixed on Jesus the sea remained solid under Peter’s feet, but as soon as he became afraid and doubted, Peter began to sink and called out to the Lord to save him. Jesus, without hesitation, reached out and caught him, saving his friend. Jesus demonstrated once again that he was no ordinary man: he was Lord over all and had come to save.

Jesus the Son of God is worthy of worship—When Jesus got into the boat, the wind died down and the disciples worshiped him saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” They had heard the demons call Jesus the Son of God (Matthew 8:29), but now they too were realizing that the man in their boat was no ordinary man. He could calm the storm, heal the sick, multiply the bread and the fish, and even walk on water. He was God. Once reaching shore, Jesus continued to heal. Mark records that wherever Jesus went, people brought their sick, and all who touched Jesus were healed (Mark 6:56).

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus was no ordinary man. He was more than a great teacher: Jesus was, and is, God. When the disciples in the boat saw Jesus walk on the stormy waves, they worshiped him as God. Little did they know that this same Jesus, who had power over the wind and the waves, who could walk on water and heal all the sicknesses of those who came to him, would soon die on the cross for their sins.

If Jesus had not been God, he should have rebuked the disciples for worshiping him. But Jesus did not correct them. There, in the middle of the sea, Jesus received the worship of the disciples.

In this story, Peter cried out, "Lord, save me." His words were more profound than he could realize. Our own sin separates us from God. We need to cry out with those same words: "Lord, save me." As he did with Peter, the Lord extends his hand to save and deliver us safely to the shore of heaven.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Matthew 14:22–36 from the Scriptures or read story 100, "Jesus Walks on Water," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Key Is in the Word

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large clear storage bin
- ✓ a large plastic bucket to transport water
- ✓ a plastic tarp or tablecloth
- ✓ several old towels to dry wet feet

Before class, set the large bin on the plastic tarp and fill it halfway with water. Have the towels nearby.

Explain to the class that you believe that you have the secret to Jesus walking on water. The key to the whole thing is the word he used. Recruit three volunteers to take off their shoes and socks and line up next to the bin of water. Have them repeat the words of Peter, “Tell me to come to you on the water.”

Have the first volunteer repeat the words, and then in a deep voice, slowly say the word, “Come.” Then have them step into the bin trying to walk on top of the water. Of course they will sink. Have them step out and dry their feet on a towel. Scratch your head and then get the idea that Jesus didn’t use a deep voice, he probably used his normal voice. Try the whole thing again with the second volunteer, using a normal voice.

Finally, act confused, saying that you are sure the key to the whole thing is the word. Then remember that there was stormy weather with wind blowing so Jesus must have had to shout to be heard. Shout out the word “Come” to your third and final volunteer. When they also sink, reason with the class out loud that you must not be right. The words Jesus used must not be the key. Then ask them what they think the key was. The key was Jesus himself. Use this as an introduction to talk about Jesus being God, and then review Peter’s words, “Lord, save me.” Peter’s words are the same words we all need to cry out to Jesus.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Pray for the Sick

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

■ LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON 22

Read Matthew 14:34–35 and talk about Jesus’ willingness to heal. Have the class help you list those they know who are sick. Then divide the class into groups of five with a parent or helper in each group to lead them in praying through the list. Encourage all the children to pray for at least one person. When you finish, ask the children the following questions:

- How did reading the story encourage you to pray?
- If we don’t see someone we pray for get healed, what should we do?
(We should keep on praying. We need to be persistent in bringing them before Jesus.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 22—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Why was Peter afraid?
(Peter was afraid because he was sinking.)
- What did Peter say when he called out to Jesus?
(“Lord, save me.”)
- What did Jesus do to save Peter?
(Jesus reached out his hand and then corrected Peter because he doubted and did not believe.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 25 MIN

Act Out the Scene

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes made from flat sheets and towels
- ✓ masking tape

Assign two children to play the roles of Jesus and Peter. The rest of the class can be the disciples. Considering the number of children you have, tape on your classroom floor the outline of a boat large enough for everyone to fit inside.

Have everyone but Jesus get inside the boat, and coach them for a few minutes on how to perform some simple actions to mimic the disciples rowing against the wind. Appoint several rowers. Everyone else can follow your hand commands to react to the boat's action in the waves. If you point left, they should lean left; point right, they should lean right; point up, they should rise; point down, they should fall. The children will have fun doing these commands while the rowers pretend to row.

Then cue Jesus to come into the scene and have everyone pretend to be afraid. (Keep up the hand signals the whole time so that they both have to act afraid and act out the movement of the waves.) Then have Peter call out to Jesus. When Jesus invites him to step off the boat, have the children act out the scene in which Peter sinks and calls out to Jesus to save him.

LESSON 22 - JESUS WALKS ON WATER

