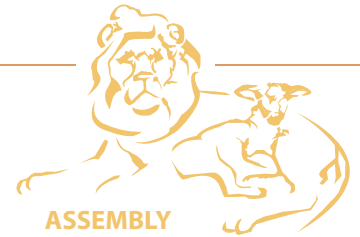


JESUS WALKS ON WATER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 14:27-34



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

KIDS IN THE BOAT

Supplies

masking tape

Tape an outline in the shape of a boat on the floor of your classroom. Tell the children that you are going to act out today's Bible story. Have them all climb into the boat. Shout out commands like, "Let down the sail. Raise the anchor and lower the oars." You can have some children pretend to row you away from shore while others hold the sail ropes to guide them into the wind. Turn off the lights in the classroom and have the children pretend that it is dark. Then tell them to act like a great wind is blowing against them by having them sway in the boat.

Have one child play the role of Jesus and approach the boat walking on water. Have the children in the boat call out that they see a ghost. Finally, have one child play Peter. Help the two children playing the lead roles by prompting them with their lines. Once you go through the story, start all over. The children will love doing it again.

Ask the children what we learn about Jesus from the story and help them to understand that Jesus was more than an ordinary man: Jesus was also God.

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WALKING ON WATER

Supplies

large washbasin filled with water and a large towel

Read the story to the children and then ask the class for a volunteer. Explain to the volunteer that you are going to have him walk on water. Explain that you are convinced that children are so light they should be able to do this. Have the volunteer take off his shoes and socks and stand on the towel next to the basin. Explain to him that when he steps into the basin you don't want him to touch the bottom with his feet.

Of course, he will not be able to do this. Ask for more volunteers giving a few others a turn. Play dumb to the children asking them, "I wonder how Jesus did it?" Ask them to help you understand. The answer you are looking for is that Jesus was no ordinary man. He was also God. In fact the disciples realized this in a special way that day as well. After Jesus walked on the water and reached the boat, Matthew tells us that they "worshipped Him." Explain to the children that the Son of God came down to earth as a man so that He could take the punishment that we deserved for our sins. That way we could be forgiven.

ALL WHO TOUCHED HIM WERE HEALED

Supplies

large robe or sheet to serve as a cloak

After the boat landed, the Bible tells us that people brought their sick to Jesus and that all who touched Him were healed. Have the children pretend to be the people on the shore coming to Jesus with different ailments. One could pretend to be crippled, another blind. Have one of the teachers play Jesus by putting the cloak on and sitting in a chair. Have the sick children walk by and as soon as they touch the cloak act out their healing with praise.

After everyone has finished, talk about Jesus' power to save us from our sickness and then transition to how Jesus through His death saves us from our sin.



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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Jesus was no ordinary man. He was more than a great teacher. Jesus was God.

When the disciples on the boat saw Jesus walk on the stormy waves they worshipped Him as God. Little did they know 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 our sins.

In this story, Peter cries out, "Lord, save me." His words were more profound than he could realize. In our lives, the storm is one of our own sin. We are separated from God and need to cry out with those same words, "Lord, save me." Just like with Peter, the Lord extends His hand to save and delivers us safely to the shores of heaven.

