



Jesus Walks on Water

Mark 6:45-52

God Statement: Jesus Is Awesome

KEY VERSE:

“With God, all things are possible,” Matthew 19:26, NIRV

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...*(most of the time)*

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus Walks On Water

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus walked on water.

Say: Do you like to go swimming? It's so fun to be all wet and splash around in the water. If you're not wearing your floaties, or if someone isn't holding on to you, you might go under the water a little bit. That would be scary! Show me your scared face.

Say: Today, we're going to hear about a time when Jesus did something pretty awesome! He walked right on top of the water. Jesus is awesome, right? Let's say that together – Jesus is awesome!

PLAY: Sink or Float

Supplies: tub for water, various items that will sink or float, i.e. rock, plastic boat, toy car, Ping-Pong ball

Directions: Fill the tub 2/3 full. Let kids explore the items in the water. Do not allow children to splash or spill the water. Put away project if it gets out of hand.

Say: *Some things float and some things sink. Today we are going to explore what items float, stay on top of the water, and what items sink, go to the bottom of the water.*

While you are working with each child, ask:

- Do you like to go swimming and play in the water?

- What do you think would happen if you tried to walk across the swimming pool?
- Jesus' friends had a boat. Have you ever been in a boat?

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *He's God the Whole World in His Hands*
- *Oh, How I Love Jesus*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This week, read about a story about Jesus Walks on the Water from Jesus Calling Bible Storybook

BIG IDEA:

Jesus is awesome! He can do things no one else can do. He can stop a storm, He can feed 5000 people with just a little food, He can walk on the water!

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus Walks on Water!***

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is wearing sunglasses.

Say: Wow, Hamilton, what are you wearing? ***Hamilton gets right in your face to show you his sunglasses.*** Cool glasses. Oh, are you going swimming today? How fun. We are going to talk about how Jesus went in the water. He didn't get very wet because He walked right on top! Sit with us and listen.

Read Jesus Works Miracles, Jesus Walks on Water, pages 182-183.

Say: Only Jesus can walk on water. He is awesome!

Say: Hamilton, when you go swimming, you can try to walk on top of the water but remember, only Jesus can do that. He is awesome. Let's say that together one more time before Hamilton leaves. Ready? Jesus is awesome! Bye Hamilton. ***Put Ham back in his house.***

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that "Jesus is Awesome!". (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: Jesus is awesome! He can do things no one else can do. He can stop a storm, He can feed 5000 people with just a little food, He can walk on the water!

Say: Let's sit quietly for a moment and think about how awesome Jesus is.

After a quiet moment (30 seconds-ish) ask the kids to tell you what they think is awesome about Jesus. Let them share.

Close time in prayer.

BLESSING (1 minute)

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

For larger classes, use the following blessing: *Friends, may you always remember that Jesus is so awesome and He LOVES YOU!*

For a smaller class, give a personal blessing to each child using their name:

Say: *"Luna, may you always remember that Jesus is so awesome and He LOVES YOU!"*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Act it Out

Supplies: *clean squirt bottle with water in it. (do NOT use the bleach bottles!)*

Directions: Ask one child to play Jesus, one to play Peter and the others to be in the "boat." Those in the boat, including Peter, should just sit together on the floor. "Jesus" can stand at the other side of the room.

Say: *You are all in the boat. Oh, here comes the wind. **Rock back and forth with the wind.***

*Here comes the rain. **Squirt a little spray of water over the children's heads.***

Where is Jesus? The disciples in the boat were afraid of the storm. Can you make yourself look afraid?

Say: *Look, here comes Jesus! **Child playing Jesus should start walking slowly toward the "boat."***

- *Peter says, “Jesus let me walk with you on the water.”*
- *Jesus says, “Peter come to me.”*
- *Peter gets out of the boat and walks a step and then falls down.*
- *Jesus helps him up. They both get into the boat.*
- *Well done! Jesus is awesome! He walks on the water!*

Repeat if interest holds.

MAKE: Coloring Sheet

Supplies: *coloring sheet and crayons*

Directions: Encourage the kids to use the crayons to color their pages as bright and colorful as they can. Make sure to send the paper home if they don't have time to color, so that parents can see what they learned from the day.

Say: *Let's color this picture to help us remember how awesome God is!*

While you are working with each child, ask:

- What is happening here?
- Who is Jesus? Who is Peter?
- What would that feel like to walk on water?
- Jesus made that possible! Jesus is awesome!

PLAY!

Purpose: *Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"



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