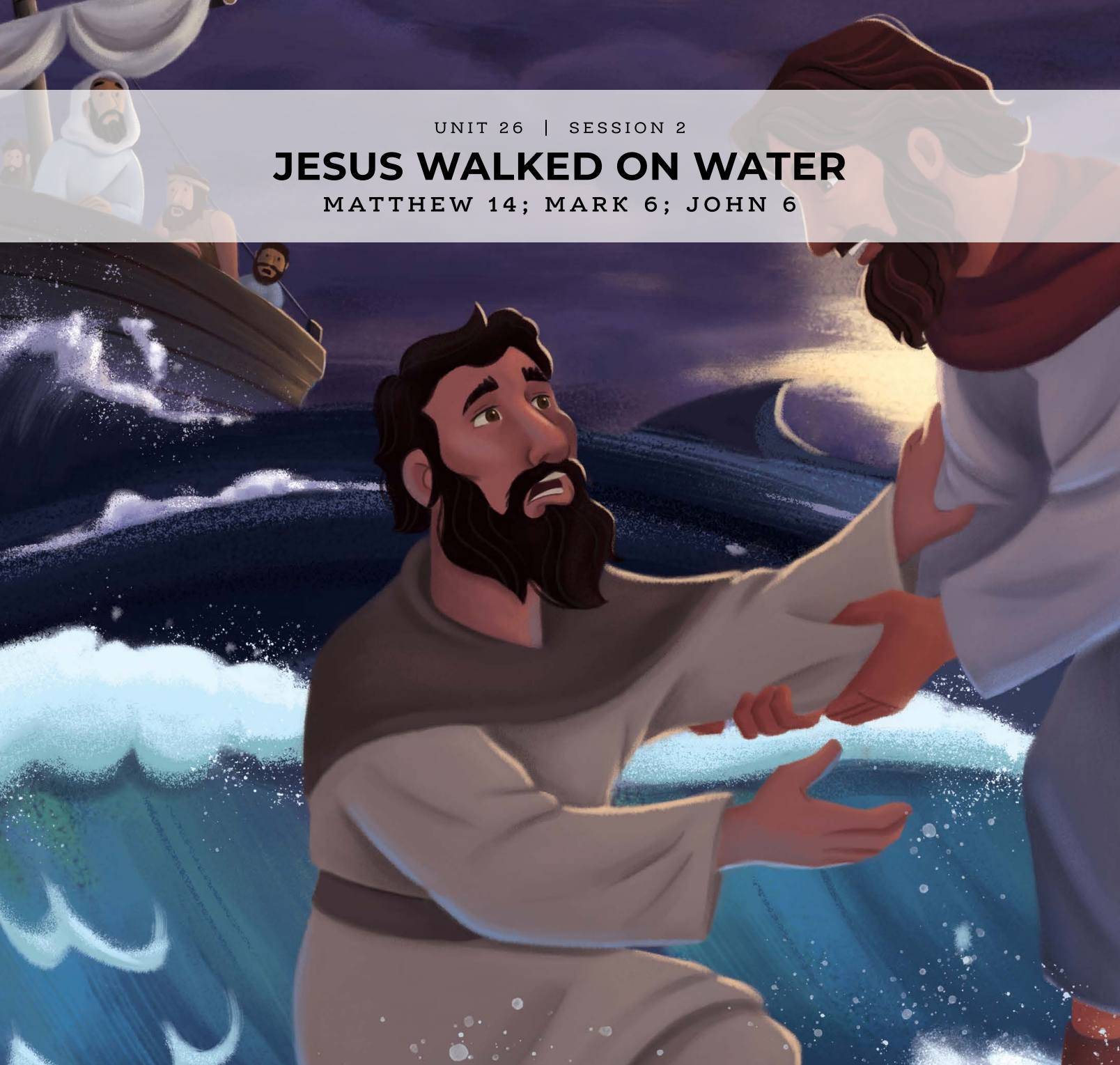


JESUS WALKED ON WATER

MATTHEW 14; MARK 6; JOHN 6



KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do we need to be born again? Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus showed He is God by walking on water. He has power over everything—wind, waves, and even fear. Jesus is the Son of God who cares for us and is always with us. When we trust Jesus, we don't need to be afraid.

STORY POINT: Jesus showed He is God by walking on water.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The Texas Giant is a roller coaster that slowly sends riders up 153 feet before dropping them back down at high speeds. At the top of that incline, a sign states, “Wait! Let’s discuss this!” A similar thought might have been on the minds of the other disciples when Peter asked to join Jesus walking on the water!

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. But as soon as Jesus spoke to them in the boat and identified Himself, Peter saw an opportunity. He asked for Jesus to command him to come, stepped out of the boat, and started walking toward Jesus.

Peter wanted to be where Jesus was even if it meant leaving his comfort zone. Peter left the security of the boat and took a risk. God calls us to do the same. He calls us to step into the challenges He sets before us, even when the task seems difficult or even impossible.

This story also shows us that when we step out in faith, challenges are to be expected. The wind was fierce, and the waves were intimidating. And when Peter shifted his focus to the situation around him, he began to sink. The writer of Hebrews tells us to keep our eyes on Jesus as we run the race of life (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Even in Peter’s failing, he discovered the goodness of God. When Peter cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out His hand and lifted him up. God’s grace meets us in the middle of our weaknesses. Even when our faith falters, He is faithful, ready to rescue and restore.

Peter shows us that following Christ with boldness will draw us closer to Him. We will experience a deeper relationship with our Savior as we take risks for Him. Each act of obedience, every step taken in faith, brings us closer to Him and gives us courage to face the next challenge.

This week, help kids look past the distractions and storms of life as they fix their eyes on Jesus as the Savior they need.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Who Is Jesus?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ a large parachute, bedsheet, or blanket
- ☐ small plush fish or other sea animals (optional)

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ table tennis balls, or other small balls
- ☐ plastic spoons



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Walked on Water" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ blue bulletin board paper (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 26, Session 2" Questions from Kids video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ megaphone
- ☐ "The One Who Believes in Me (John 11:25)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ large craft sticks
- ☐ "Story Stick Puppets" printable

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ 1-ply toilet paper
- ☐ spray bottle
- ☐ trash can

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever had to do something you were afraid to do? What helped you conquer your fear?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Who Is Jesus?” activity page.

SAY “Today we will learn about a time when Jesus’ disciples were in a boat during a huge storm. During this storm, **JESUS SHOWED HE IS GOD BY WALKING ON WATER**. I am looking forward to sharing this exciting story with you!”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PARACHUTE WAVES

Lead kids to spread out around a parachute or bed sheet. Place the plush animals in the center of the parachute. Encourage kids to begin to make calm waves by moving the parachute up and down, slowly and gently. Then, direct kids to begin to increase the waves until they have made waves like a strong storm would produce. Challenge them to see if they can keep the plush animals on the parachute during the storm. Then, announce that the storm has stopped and direct kids to stop the waves. Repeat as time allows.

SAY “Today we will see how **JESUS SHOWED HE IS GOD BY WALKING ON WATER**. Jesus has power over everything—wind, waves, and even fear. I am looking forward to sharing the story of Jesus walking on water with you.”

☐ OPTION 2: EYES-FOCUSED RACE



Before this activity, tape a starting line at one end of the room and a finish line at the other end. Form kids into two teams and direct the teams to line up behind the starting line. Distribute a ball and spoon to the first kid in each line. Challenge kids to place the ball on the spoon and race across the room to the finish line and back, keeping their head up, not looking at the ball or spoon, and not dropping the ball. If a kid looks down at the spoon or drops the ball, he must go back to the starting line and try again. The first team to finish the race, wins.

SAY “In order to win the race, you had to keep your eyes up and keep the ball on your spoon. Today we will see how Peter learned that he had to trust Jesus and keep his eyes fixed on Him and not on the storm around him.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Welcome, kids! I am so glad you are here. My name is [your name], and today I get to share a true story from the Bible with you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? (Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.) Today as we learn about Jesus walking on water, let’s ask God to prepare our hearts to hear from His Word. ‘Lord, You have power over everything—the wind, the waves, and even fear. Help us remember that even in the storms of life, You are with us and care for us so we don’t have to be afraid. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “As we study God’s Word together, we like to think about a big picture question and answer to help us focus on an important truth. Do you remember our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is: **Why do we need to be born again?** The answer to this question is: **Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.**

Today we will see how **JESUS SHOWED HE IS GOD BY WALKING ON WATER.** Jesus has power over everything, even sin and death. Through His death on the cross and His resurrection, we can be forgiven and free from sin and have new life in Him. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry, He taught the truth of God through His words and through His actions. Today’s story takes place right after Jesus fed the crowd with just a small lunch of five loaves and two fish. In this story, we will see how **JESUS SHOWED HE IS GOD BY WALKING ON WATER.** Jesus has power over everything. When we trust Him, we don’t need to be afraid because He loves and cares for us. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 6. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Walked on Water.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS WALKED ON WATER

“ After **Jesus** fed the big crowd with five loaves and two fish, He **told His disciples to get into a boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake. Jesus wanted to pray alone on a nearby mountain.**

The disciples got into the boat and started rowing across the water. But soon, **a strong wind began to blow. The waves became big, and the boat rocked back and forth.**

Very early in the morning while it was still dark, Jesus went out to the disciples. But He didn’t walk on the road or take a boat. **Jesus walked on the water!**

When **the disciples** saw Jesus walking on the water, they **were very scared. They thought He was a ghost!**

But Jesus said, “Have courage. It is Me.”

Peter, one of the disciples, **said, “Lord, if it really is You, tell me to come to You on the water.”**

Jesus said, “Come.”

Peter climbed out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when **Peter** looked at the strong wind and big waves, he **became afraid and started to sink.**

“Save me, Lord!” Peter cried.

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

Then **Jesus and Peter** climbed into the boat. **The wind stopped, and the water became calm.**

The disciples worshiped Jesus. They said, “You are truly the Son of God!”

Christ Connection: Jesus showed He is God by walking on water. He has power over everything—wind, waves, and even fear. Jesus is the Son of God who cares for us and is always with us. When we trust Jesus, we don’t need to be afraid. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Emotions: Encourage kids to listen for the different emotions mentioned in the story and show them on their faces.

By the sea: Create a small body of water on the ground by taping blue bulletin board paper or blue plastic tablecloths on the ground. Invite kids to join you by the sea as you tell the story of Jesus walking on water.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

| **SAY** “ Right after Jesus finished feeding the crowd, He told His disciples to go



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

ahead of Him in a boat. Jesus dismissed the crowds and then spent some time praying. When Jesus was finished, the boat was away from the shore and being tossed in the water by large waves and wind.

How did Jesus get to the disciples' boat? [Allow responses.] Jesus walked on the rough, stormy water out to the boat. **JESUS SHOWED HE IS GOD BY WALKING ON WATER.** Do you remember how the disciples reacted? [Allow responses.] They were very afraid and thought Jesus was a ghost. Jesus told the disciples to have courage and not to fear. Peter doubted it was really Jesus walking on the water so He asked Jesus to call him out into the water. What happened as Peter walked on the water? [Allow responses.] Jesus allowed Peter to walk on water to Him, but as soon as Peter noticed the wind and waves around him, he was afraid and began to sink. He cried out for Jesus to help, and Jesus caught him and asked why he doubted. Once they were back in the boat, they praised Jesus, knowing He is truly the Son of God.

Jesus showed He is God by walking on water. He has power over everything—wind, waves, even fear. Jesus is the Son of God who cares for us and is always with us. When we trust Jesus, we don't need to be afraid. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Jesus has power over everything, even sin and death. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He conquered sin and death so that we can have forgiveness and eternal life when we believe in Him. If you have questions about trusting Jesus as Savior, you can talk with your parents or a church leader. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 26, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did some people who saw Jesus perform miracles still not believe in Him?
2. What is an area of your life where God is inviting you to have faith?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Sarah is deaf, and she lives in Indonesia. She is the only Deaf person in a hearing Christian family. One challenge Sarah experienced was trying to read lips to figure out what her teachers and the preacher were saying at church. Instead of trying to speak to others, Sarah would stay quiet.

One day, an International Mission Board (IMB) worker invited Sarah to a special Bible camp where Deaf people learn Bible stories through sign language. For the first time, Sarah saw Bible stories told in sign language. Sarah realized that God could use her and her sign language to tell others about Jesus. She went from being quiet and shy to being brave! Sarah wants everyone, both hearing and Deaf people, to know that God loves them and that God can use them to tell others about Jesus.

In 2018, almost 7,000 Deaf people learned about Jesus from IMB workers and partners. Of those who learned about Jesus, 186 new believers were baptized. ”

Pray, thanking God for missionaries among the Deaf. Ask God to send more workers, both hearing and Deaf, who will help other Deaf people know about Jesus. Pray that Bible translations can be created in every sign language so that all Deaf people will have access to Bibles in their primary language.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 11:25 together.

SAY “ Our key passage reminds us that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. That means Jesus is the source of everlasting life because of His death and resurrection. ”

Use a store-bought or homemade megaphone to say one section of the key passage aloud. Challenge kids to listen closely and then echo that section back to you. Continue until you have said and the kids have echoed the entire key passage. Repeat, saying the key passage sections in different ways such as whispering, shouting, in a high voice, in a low voice, in a funny accent, etc.

Lead kids to sing “The One Who Believes in Me (John 11:25).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, Lord, for being powerful over everything. Help us remember that we can trust You and not be afraid. May we share the hope and peace You give us with others. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 14. Explain that the story we studied today is recorded in three of the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and John. Each of the Gospel writers included many of the same stories of Jesus' life and ministry on earth, but from different perspectives.

Consider pointing out the location of the Sea of Galilee [D6] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 14:31, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ Jesus invited Peter to come out of the boat and walk on the water with Him. Peter was able to walk on the water for a short time, but then he looked around and saw the wind and the waves around him; he became afraid and immediately began to sink into the water. Jesus asked Peter why he doubted. Peter, as a disciple of Jesus, had seen many of the miracles Jesus had done which displayed His power as God, but Peter still doubted when he was in the rough waters. When we are faced with a hard time or a scary situation, we may begin to doubt God's goodness and His power. But, if we have trusted Jesus as Savior, we have nothing to fear. God is all-powerful and promises to care for His children. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why do you think Peter wanted to walk out to Jesus? ”

The Bible tells us that Peter wasn't sure that the person he saw walking on the water was Jesus, so he wanted to see for himself. Peter knew that if it really was Jesus, he would be able to walk to Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 14:28.)

SAY “ What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus and began focusing on the waves and wind around him? ”

When Peter began focusing on the storm around him instead of trusting Jesus, he began to sink. The Bible tells us that if we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, we have nothing to fear because He is all-powerful and cares for His children. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isaiah 41:10.)

SAY “ What can we do during times we may be tempted to doubt God's goodness and power? ”

We can remind ourselves of the ways He has displayed His power and goodness throughout the Bible and how we have seen Him work in our lives. The Bible reminds us repeatedly that nothing is out of God's control. The Bible also reminds us that God loves and cares for us and wants good for us. If we have trusted Jesus as Savior, we have nothing to fear. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Psalm 145:9.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: STORY STICK PUPPETS

Distribute four craft sticks and a copy of the “Story Stick Puppets” printable to each kid. Place scissors, glue, and coloring supplies in the center of each table. Direct kids to begin coloring each of the people from the story. Once they have finished coloring, assist kids in using their scissors to cut out each person and glue them to a craft stick. Then, challenge kids to retell today’s story to each other, using their stick puppets. As time allows, invite kids to come to the front, individually or with a friend, and tell the story to the entire group using their stick puppets.

SAY “ Today we saw how **JESUS SHOWED HE IS GOD BY WALKING ON WATER.** Jesus has power over everything. When we trust in Jesus, we don’t need to be afraid because He loves and cares for us. ”

☐ OPTION 2: POWER OVER FEAR

Give each kid a length of 1-ply toilet paper long enough to drape over a trash can. Using a marker, lead them to carefully write a fear they have, or simply the word **FEAR** on the toilet paper. Show the spray bottle and explain that this represents God’s power. Lead the kids to take turns draping the toilet paper across the rim of the trash can and spraying the toilet paper with the water bottle until the toilet paper disintegrates into the trash can.

SAY “ It can be easy to get distracted by our fears. But it’s important to remember that God is more powerful than anything we might be scared of! Today we learned how **JESUS SHOWED HE IS GOD BY WALKING ON WATER.** Jesus has power over everything—wind, waves, and even fear. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.