



SEPTEMBER 2024

September 22

I am Known

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: Peter walked on Water- Matthew 14:22-23

Bottom Line: God knows my real fears.

Leader Context: In Matthew 14:22-33, we read the story of Peter walking on water. Peter and the other disciples were caught in a storm while out to sea. Suddenly, Jesus came to them- walking on water! Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the storm raging around him, he grew afraid and began to sink. Jesus didn't stop the wind but reached out and reminded Peter that He was there. When kids are asking, Where is God when I'm afraid? We get to teach them that God is always with them. He knows their real fears, and He offers them love, care, and security.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

Social

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, Blank paper (1 per child), Construction paper (1 per child), Child-safe scissors (1 per child), Crayons (several)

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

Videos

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

Can you imagine being in the middle of a sea surrounded by huge waves? It would be pretty scary if you ask me! All around us, there are things that frighten us. Maybe we are afraid of the dark, maybe we have a fear of heights, or maybe we fear making mistakes. Whatever our fears may be, this story shows us that God knows our real fears. Say, "God knows my real fears!" (God knows my real fears!) He really does!

When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water, he was terrified! He thought Jesus was a ghost. Jesus knew Peter and the other disciples were afraid and called out for them to have courage. When Peter stepped out onto the water with his focus on Jesus, it seemed like his fear was gone. But when Peter focused on the wind and waves, he started to sink.

Gospel Connection: *Using the Gospel 4 Circles guide kids to see how the Bible story relates to the four circles.*

(Circle one) God created people to know, trust, and follow Him without fear. God created the world and people according to His perfect design. God designed people to keep their focus on Him. We call that worship, which means celebrating God and keeping your focus on Him.

(Circle two) Unfortunately, sin entered the world. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. Every single person sins. Sin separates us from God and keeps us from living the way He designed. In today's Bible story, Peter's fear of the wind and the waves caused him to take his focus off Jesus. Sin causes us to take our focus off of God too. But there is still hope.

(Circle three) Peter turned from looking at the wind and waves, and cried out, "Lord, save me!" And Jesus saved him! What did Jesus do? (Saved him!) Jesus saves us in an even bigger and more important way. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. Jesus never sinned and He took the punishment we deserved by dying in our place. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven. When we admit that we are sinners, confess our sin to God, believe in Jesus, and proclaim our faith in Him, God forgives us.

(Circle four) Then, we can have a relationship with Him. This doesn't mean that we will never be afraid or make wrong choices again. But it means we can turn to God, put our focus on Him, and remember how much He loves us.

If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus, come talk with me. We would love to talk about how amazing our God is. Remember, God knows us and loves us. We can focus on Him, and He will always help us! Say, "I am known!" (I am known!) Say, "God knows my real fears!" (God knows my real fears!)

Walk on Water (15 minutes)-

Using a simple object lesson kids will see explore floating and consider why fear prevents us from trusting and believing.

What You Need: “Soap Boat Template” (printed on cardstock, 1 boat cutout per kid), bin of water (pie pan, plastic shoe box, etc.) toothpicks (1 per kid), liquid dish soap (1 bottle per group), Various materials for building soap boats (cardboard, plastic coated card board (from milk or juice carton), aluminum foil, plastic lids from yogurt containers, thin plastic transparency, Surface Tension Printable (1 per kid), paper towels for cleanup

Leader Prep: Set out the supplies. fill the bin with water. Give each kid a toothpick and soap boat template.

What To Do: We’re going to try a little experiment today. I have some water, soap and a few paper boats. We are going to take turns floating your boats on the water and see who’s boat can go the farthest.

Keep It Going: Have kids write their name on their boat. Then take turns floating the paper boats. Put a dot of soap on the tip of the toothpick for each kid and ask them to put their boat on the water. They will touch the water to the back of the boat. The boat should zoom across the water. Give everyone the chance to try with a paper boat. As they finish challenge them to use the extra supplies to try different types of boats and measure the distance each boat floats.

Leader Tip: Provide extra paper towels in the event of spills or if needed for cleanup.

Loud And Clear: *Using the Surface Tension printable, help kids know what made their boat float and move across the water. Talk about how this relates to the Bible story of Peter walking on the water to Jesus.*

When we focus on our fears, it can drag us down. If our boats didn’t have the help of soap, do you think they would have moved quickly across the water? When we are bogged down by fear we can wonder if God is really with us. But we can keep our focus on Him and trust in Him. We can remember the truth of how much God loves us, and we can ask for help. When we do that, it’s like what happened with Peter in our Bible story. God can pull us out of our fears and draw us closer to Him. Say, “I am known!” (*I am known!*) Say, **“God knows my real fears!”** (*God knows my real fears!*) We are known and loved by God!

You can take your boats and this paper home to try this experiment at home. Take the time to talk to your family about your fears. Ask them to pray with you so you can all celebrate when God shows you how much He cares about your fears.

Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

What To Do: Let's have some "Real Talk" and answer a few questions together.

- I am going to list some things that people are afraid of, and you tell me how scary you think they are on a scale from 1-10. Spiders? Heights? Snakes? Roller Coasters? Dogs? Clowns? The dark? The ocean? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
- How can lights, like the LED lights we saw in Large Group, provide comfort when someone is afraid in a dark room? How can knowing that God is always there for you when you feel afraid provide you comfort? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are known by God, and He knows our real fears. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 14:30-31 and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* Jesus helped Peter before He stopped the storm. How can remembering that help you when you are feeling afraid? *(God is with us, and He helps us, even if the things around us don't change.)*
- God knows our real fears. We can know He's with us, even if the things happening around us don't change. What are some ways you could share this good news with a friend who is feeling afraid? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are known by God, and He knows our real fears. Real talk: no matter what happens or what we're afraid of, God knows our real fears, and He will always be there to comfort us. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)* Let's talk to God by praying. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

God, thank You for comforting us when we are afraid. Thank You for sending Jesus, who knows our real fears, and is always with us. You are amazing, and we can never thank You enough for everything You do for us. Help us to trust You and follow You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Real talk: God knows our real fears. He knows what scares us and makes us afraid. God knows our real fears, and He loves us. God sent Jesus to be our Comforter. We can take comfort in knowing that we have a God who loves us and will be with us no matter what!

Going Home

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.