

## LESSON 3—JESUS WALKS ON WATER

**Bible Reference:** Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21

**Key Verse:** Matthew 28:20—“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

### OVERVIEW

- Bible Story
- Key Verse
- Prayer Part
- Small Group Activities
- Review

### ITEMS NEEDED:

- Signs that say: *Peter, Jesus, Disciple, Disciple, All the other Disciples, Boat*
- Signs for: The Lord’s Prayer
- Each small group will need items for the “Jesus Walks on Water” craft.
- A place where students can turn in prayer requests

### BIBLE LESSON

*(Based on Matthew 14:22-33)*

SAY: Good morning. We are so glad that you’re here today. Today we’re continuing our series called “Way Beyond Myself” which is all about the idea that God has the power to do things that are “Way Beyond” what you and I could ever do on our own.

### CONTROL TOOL

Anytime I say, “That’s impossible!” I want you to say, “Not for God!”  
*Practice a few times. If you want, have a boys verses girls competition to see who can be louder.*

REPEAT after me: *All things are possible for God.*

### Review

SAY: The last two weeks we have learned that Jesus can do amazing things.

ASK: **Who remembers our story from last time?** (Jesus sending Peter to pull a coin from a fish’s mouth.) ***Take a moment to briefly review this story with your students.***

REPEAT after me:

- “Jesus can heal.”
- “Jesus can forgive sins.”
- “Jesus can do the impossible.”

## **Opener**

SAY: In a few minutes we're going to hear a story of someone who did something amazing because of Jesus. The story is also about someone who made a choice, so I want to find out what kind of choices you make.

*Have your group stand up and tell them the following. Keep this fast-paced:*

### ***Which had your rather...***

- (1) If you had rather play football, stand up.  
If you had rather play soccer, stay seated.
- (2) If you had rather buy a video, game stand up.  
If you had rather buy a movie, stay seated.
- (3) If you had rather buy clothes, stand up.  
If you had rather buy food, stay seated.
- (4) If you had rather buy a stuffed animal, stand up.  
If you had rather buy a football, stay seated.
- (5) If you had rather buy a video game, stand up.  
If you had rather give food to someone who doesn't have any, stay seated.
- (6) If you had rather have a picture with your friends, stand up.  
If you had rather have a poster of a sport's hero, stay seated.
- (7) If you had rather buy baseball cards, stand up.  
If you had rather buy a book, stay seated.
- (8) If you had rather be at church this morning, stand up.  
If you had rather be in the smelliest jail cell in the state, stay seated.
- (9) If you had a rather have a candy bar, stand up.  
If you had rather have a McDonald's Happy Meal, stay seated.

SAY: In the game we just played, you made choices and every day you make choices too. You choose what to eat, what to wear, where to go. But the greatest choice you'll ever make is to choose to give your life to Jesus and to follow Him everyday in every way.

## **Bible Story**

SAY: Listen to our story.

*Choose six volunteers*

*Give two volunteers the signs that say "Peter" and "Jesus."*

*Give three volunteers the signs that say, "Disciple," "Disciple" and the third person will represent "All the other Disciples."*

*Let the last volunteer BE the boat...*

**ASK: Have you ever been in a boat?** Well, today, you get to BE the boat. Give him or her the “boat” sign. Have this person lie down and the Disciples and Peter should stand just behind him.

**SAY:** Whenever you hear the name, “**Jesus,**” say, “**With Him, nothing is impossible!**” Let’s practice a few times.

Tell the story and have your characters act it out. They can even repeat their character’s sentences after you:

*(The following is from Matthew 14:22-33 with some extra comments in italics. Pause after the words in bold. These are the ones after which the kids should say, “With Him, nothing is impossible.”)*

Immediately **Jesus** made the disciples get into the boat, and to go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. After He (**Jesus**) had sent the multitudes away, he went up into the mountain apart to pray. When evening had come, He (**Jesus**) was there alone. But the boat was now in the midst of the sea, distressed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. In the fourth watch of the night (*that’s about three o’clock in the morning*) **Jesus** came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out for fear. But immediately **Jesus** spoke to them, saying “Cheer up! I AM! Don’t be afraid.” Peter answered him and said, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters.” He said, “Come!” Peter went down from the boat, and walked on the waters to come to **Jesus**. But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” Immediately **Jesus** stretched forth his hand, and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got up into the boat, the wind ceased. Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, “You are truly the Son of God!”

**SAY:** In this story, Peter trusted Jesus enough to step out of the boat. Because of Jesus he did something amazing. None of the other disciples walked on the water, but then the wind and waves distracted him and he became afraid.

**SAY:** Let’s give our volunteers a hand for helping us.

**ASK: What happened when Peter became afraid and looked at the wind instead of Jesus?** (He sank)

**ASK: What did Jesus do?** (He saved Him.)

**SAY:** When Peter made a mistake, Jesus saved him. And we need Jesus to “save” us too.

**ASK: What did Jesus save Peter from?** (Sinking in the water.)

**ASK: What can Jesus save us from?** (Our sin.)

**ASK: What is sin?**

**SAY:** Sin is anything that’s wrong and we’re learning this week that Jesus came and died and rose again to make a way to forgive the wrong things we’ve done. He did this because He loves us.

SAY: God can do the impossible—which includes healing a paralyzed man, filling a net full of fish, and walking on water. But an even bigger miracle is that God can save you and me from our sins.

#### CONTROL TOOL

Leader: *“That’s impossible!”* Students: *“Not for God!”*

REPEAT after me:

“Jesus can heal.”

“Jesus can forgive sins.”

“Jesus can do the impossible.”

#### KEY VERSE

ASK: **What is your greatest fear?** *(Take a few answers.)*

SAY: Raise your hand if you have had a nightmare recently. Put your hands down. Sometimes we’re scared of things that aren’t real. Maybe we have a dream about a ghost or a monster...these things aren’t real but sometimes because of what we watch on TV or stories we hear, even things that aren’t real are scary to us.

ASK: **How many of you have ever been scared of something that wasn’t real?**

SAY: But sometimes we’re scared of things that are real—We’ve had students your age tell us that they are scared that their parents will get divorced or scared of spiders or snakes or tornados. The disciples were scared when they saw Jesus and we want you to know what to do anytime that you’re afraid.

SAY: We’re going to play a quick game—Everybody close your eyes. On the count of three, I want you to say the name of someone in this room right now. 1-2-3. Now open your eyes.

ASK: **Who would like to tell me the name of the person you said?** *(Take a few answers.)*

ASK: **Did anybody say a teacher? Did anybody say Jesus?**

SAY: A person who has given his life to Jesus is never alone. Even if they are in a room by themselves, Jesus is right there with them. Even though you can’t see Him with your eyes, He’s still there. So...

-The next time you go to bed and wake up in the middle of the night, who’s in the room with you?

-The next time you wake up in the morning, who’s in the room with you?

-The next time you go into the bathroom...that’s right, everywhere you go, Jesus is right there with you.

SAY: He will never leave you. That’s the reason you can always talk to Him, because He’s always right there.

#### **Optional Activity**

If you have time, instead of just telling them the verse, ask for volunteers who are willing to act out a word—Have them act out the following words from our key verse: “I”, “you”, “always”, “end”, “age”. Some of these words are harder than others and may need a hint or two depending on the age of your students. If you want, you can even divide your class into two teams and see which team can guess the word first. As each key word is guessed, write

it down for all to see—After all the words are guessed, see if anyone can identify the verse.

SAY: Here's our key verse for today. This verse is a promise that Jesus gave after He died and rose from the dead, just before He ascended to heaven.

REPEAT after Me: —“Behold / I am with you always, / even to the end of the age. / Amen.”  
*Repeat this a second time but louder.*  
*Repeat this a third time but in a whisper.*

#### CONTROL TOOL

Leader: *“That’s impossible!”* Students: *“Not for God!”*

SAY: Give yourselves a hand for doing such a great job with our verse today.

#### PRAYER PART

*Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.*

**ASK: After being with Jesus, what did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them?** (To pray)

SAY: This is how Jesus taught them to pray and it is our example too. I want to encourage you to ask your parents to say this prayer with you each night before you go to bed.

SAY: But right now, I want to show you something more about prayer.

*Read Matthew 18:19-20 from your Bible.*

**ASK: What did that verse just tell us about when two or more people pray together?**

SAY: There is power in prayer when we pray together. So here's our challenge for you this week—Look for someone you can pray with: If a another student gets hurt at school pray, with them; If you see your mom or dad is upset or having a bad day, ask if you can pray with them; Then ask your family if you can start praying together at meals but also before you go to bed.

*ASK if anyone wants to pray for your class to thank God that we get to come together and learn about Him.*

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, I want you to tell God your favorite thing about church. *(Pause)* Now while *(name of your volunteer)* prays, we can agree with him in prayer and talk with Jesus quietly about what he says. *(Instruct your volunteer to pray.)*

#### Dismiss to Small Groups

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I'm going to dismiss you one row at a time.

*Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.*

## SMALL GROUPS

### Craft

SAY: We're getting ready to make a picture of today's story using foam figures. Then when you take this home, we want it to remind you about what we talked about today. We also want you to use it to tell the story to the rest of your family.

*Lead your students in making a "Jesus Walks on Water" craft by using foam pages and cut outs. Guide your students in making all the key parts of the Bible story including Jesus, Peter, the boat, the waves, and more. If you want, even include today's key verse.*

### LESSON ACTIVITY for OLDER STUDENTS—The Trust Fall\*

To illustrate trust you are going to lead your students in an activity called "The Trust Fall." Below are some very specific rules and safety precautions for this. You can also do this activity as one large group or in two groups.

*Description: The Trust Fall involves a student who falls off a table (by stiffening his body and leaning backwards) into the arms of his teachers and other students.*

- (1) Choose a volunteer who is willing to fall off the table.
- (2) Choose 6 to 8 other students to be catchers. They will make two rows, facing each other with their arms outstretched. Their hands and arms should follow a pattern where you have the hand of the person on one side, then the hand of the person on the other side, and so forth. It's good if at least one teacher participates.
- (3) Help the volunteer to stand on top of a table with his feet together, his heels at the edge, and his back to the catchers.
- (4) He will need to stiffen his body and fold his arms across his chest. Tell him not to bend his body. He needs to stay completely stiff. If a person goes into a sitting position while falling, they are more likely to slip through the hands of the catchers.
- (5) Stress to the catchers the importance of not goofing around. This is serious. If they don't do their job, someone could get hurt.
- (6) Remove from catching (or don't choose) any students that you don't trust to follow your instructions.
- (7) Then when you tell him to (and only when *YOU* tell him to), he will fall backwards, keeping his body straight and stiff, into the arms of the catchers.

*(\*NOTE: You are the teacher and you know your students. Never do an activity if you feel that your class could not handle the responsibility of that activity.)*

### ASK: Was it hard to fall backwards? Would it have been harder if you couldn't see the catchers?

SAY: Some people have trouble trusting God because they can't see Him, but you can trust Him because He promised to never leave you and never let go of you. So the next time you face a tough time or something bad is happening...If you feel like you have a storm raging in your life and you don't know what to do, simply do what Peter should have done and keep your eyes on Jesus.

You can use the same catchers or choose new ones and repeat the Trust Fall with other volunteers. Between each catch, remind the students that this is an illustration of faith—Jesus said to Peter after he sank, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Below are questions that you can discuss with your students before, after or during the activity:

- Peter sank when he took his eyes off Jesus. What happens when people today take their “eyes” off Jesus?
- What does it mean to take your “eyes” off Jesus? (*To stop focusing on Him. To stop living for Him and walking with Him and to put your focus on other things in life.*)
- What are some things besides Jesus that students your age focus on and live for?
- What are some things besides Jesus that adults focus on and live for?
- What do you think a person would need to do today to put their focus back on Jesus? (*Return to God—Get rid of any sin that they have allowed to come into their lives and ask forgiveness. Then, like Peter, call out to God, and begin to walk with Jesus again.*)
- Today we also talked about prayer and the power of prayer when people pray together. So, out of curiosity, how often each week do you pray with other people? Tell me about it.

**Prayer**—Take prayer requests and pray with your students. See if any of your students want to lead the prayer time. Remind them about what Jesus said when two or more people join together in prayer.