

Peter Walks on Water: Preschool Lesson & Craft

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Preschool Bible Lesson

This is a Bible lesson for younger children from Matthew 14. In this story, Jesus calls Peter to come out of the boat and walk on the water. Children will learn about trusting Jesus even when we can't see clearly.

This preschool lesson also includes a simple craft idea. You could modify this lesson for older children or other ministry settings.

Bible Story: Peter Walks on Water

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Target Age Group: Age 4 – 6 (U.S. PreK – 1st Grade)

Learning Context: Any small or large group setting

like Sunday School or Kids Church.

Target Time Frame: 30 minutes

Printer Friendly Bible Lesson: [[print_link](#)] this lesson plan

You Can Help: Please share your feedback and suggestions to improve this children's Bible lesson. [Click here to respond](#)

Learning Goal: This lesson seeks to show kids that although we may not always see things clearly at first, we can trust Jesus because He is the Son of God.

Supplies: Colored masking tape, images of Peter/Jesus walking on the water, binoculars, picture of boat (or small toy boat), sheer fabric (or wax paper). Search for these images on [Google Images](#).

Before class, use colored painter's tape to make a boat shape on the floor for the kids to sit in. You will also need a picture of Jesus/Peter walking on the water. Hang picture on the wall in front of where you will be teaching and cover it with sheer fabric (or wax paper will work). You will also need binoculars. A picture of a boat or a small toy boat is optional.

If your kids have been playing in stations or doing opening activities, call them over to the boat that you outlined on the floor and have them sit down.

Lesson Introduction

Hold up the binoculars and asked the children if any of them know what they are. Ask if anyone has ever looked through them. You can pass them around for the children to look through. Explain that binoculars help you see things more clearly. They can help us see things that are far away more closely. Ask if there has there ever been a time when they saw something far away but couldn't tell what it was? (Ex. Something high in a tree,

someone across a field). Allow children to give answers.

Point to the covered picture hanging on the wall. Ask kids what they see in the picture. Tell them sometimes it's hard to see things clearly at first until someone helps you understand what you are looking at. Our story today is about a time when Peter and the disciples saw something that seemed strange to them.

Active Listening

Tell the kids you need their help telling the story. I want you to act out what I am reading. If I say that the winds are blowing, make sounds like the wind. I will help you. Read (or paraphrase) Matthew 14:22-33 (As you read the story, make sure you are prompting the kids with the motions/sound effects).

After finishing the story, remove the fabric from the picture. Remind kids that the disciples could not clearly see who was walking toward them on the water at first. They finally recognized it was Jesus. Tell them that walking on the water and calming the winds was something only Jesus could do because He is the Son of God. Although we may not be able to see things clearly at first, or may not understand some things, we can trust Jesus because He is the Son of God.

Review

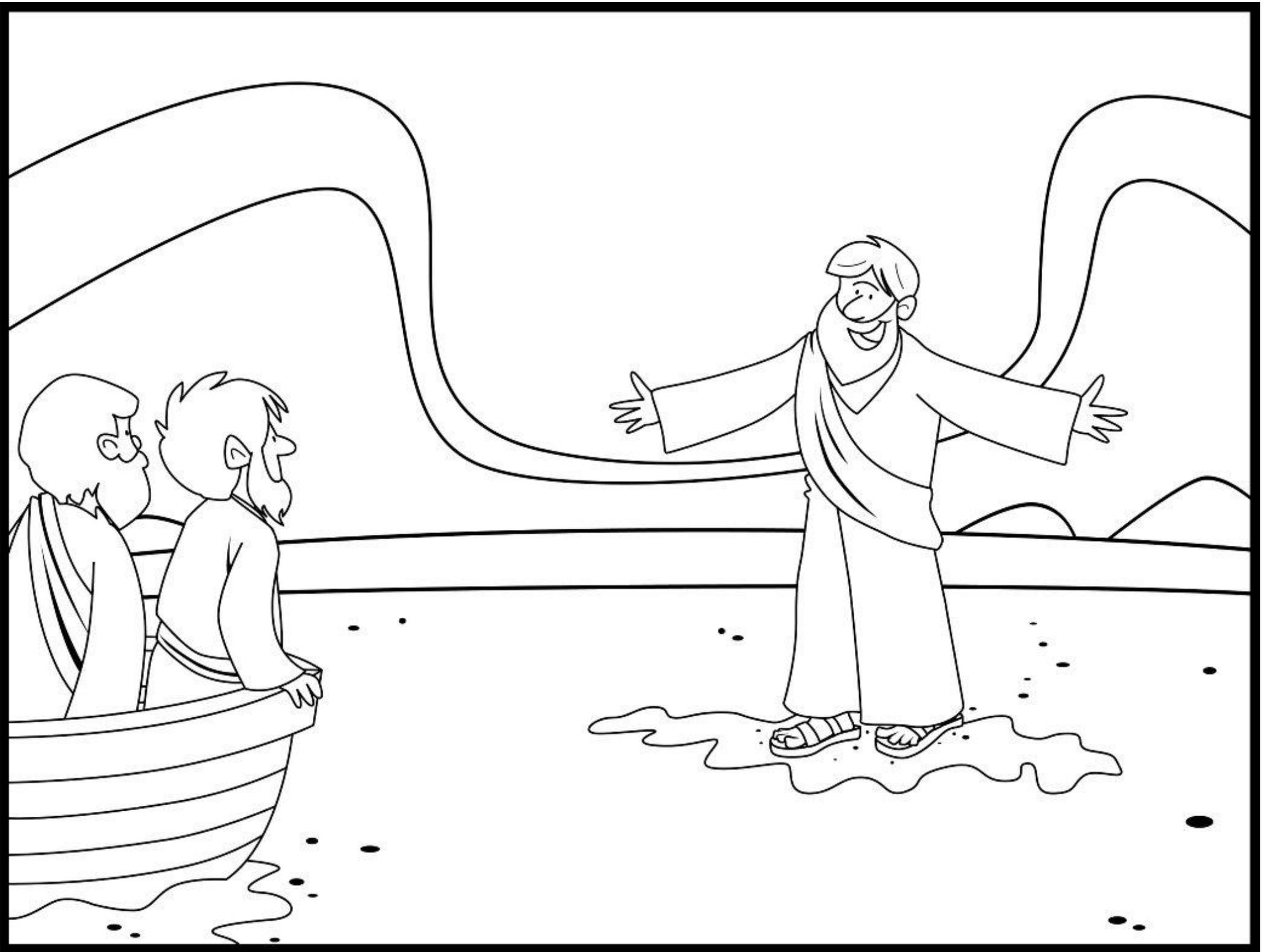
If you choose to use the picture of the boat or small toy, pass it to kids in the boat and ask them to tell you one thing they learned from the story.

If time allows you could also role play / act out the story to reinforce the key events.

Craft Time:

Materials Needed: paper plates cut in half, straws, triangles cut out of construction paper, pre-made labels that say, "I can trust Jesus because He is the Son of God."

Kids can color the half of the paper plate. Tape the triangle to the straw and tape the straw to the paper plate. Place the label on the triangle.



“Keep Your Eyes on Jesus” Craft Ideas for Jesus and Peter Walking on the Water

The story of Jesus walking on water is amazing, and can also provide an intriguing challenge for children longing to “test the waters” for themselves, just to see if they can walk atop a swimming pool (not recommended unless the water is frozen solid). It is a fun and remarkable tale, but it is important to remember which elements are key to emphasize. This lesson is not just an impossible physics phenomenon, but a reminder of what we put our trust into. When we look to ourselves, we “sink”, but with Christ, anything is possible! These crafts aim to reiterate those principles, while creating a fun nautical theme as well.

Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider...

Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” - Matthew 14:33

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” -Matthew 14:31

But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” -Matthew 14:27

Faith in Jesus will keep you afloat!

Keep your eyes on Christ...He won’t let you sink!

Jesus Saves out of the waves!

More Teaching Ideas for Sunday School

- See the [demonstration video of this craft](#) and our [YouTube playlist for this passage](#)
- Print out our free [Jesus walks on water coloring page](#)
- See all the free resources on Ministry-To-Children related to [Jesus walking on water](#)
- Don’t miss our new [children’s sermon](#) and [video example](#) for this Bible story
- Compare the full [Sunday school lesson](#) and preschool lesson for this passage



Craft one: “Jesus & Peter on the Water”

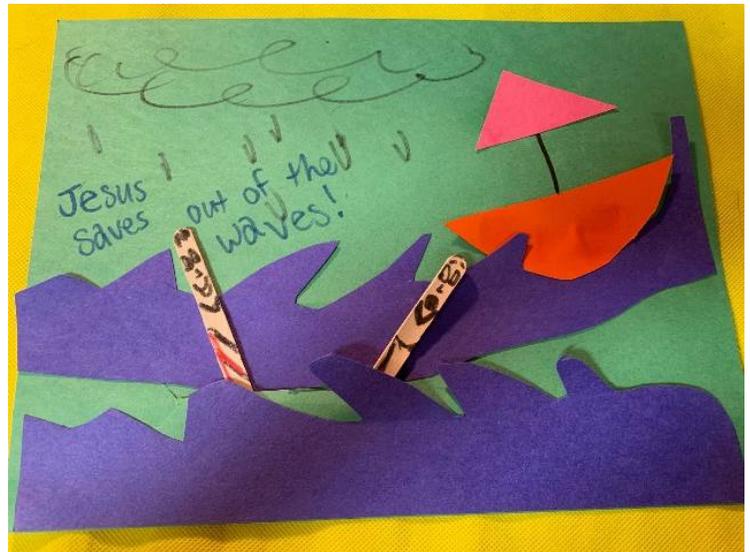
You will need:

- Construction paper (varied colors)
- Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Scissors
- Glue, tape or staples
- Popsicle sticks



Procedure:

1. Decorate a base paper for a background, adding verses or captions and pictures as desired.
2. Cut paper into waves and boat shapes, gluing onto the main background.
3. Glue the components onto the paper.
4. Cut a slit in the bottom of the paper, for the characters to fit into.
5. Decorate popsicle stick people for Jesus and Peter.
6. Slide the sticks into the paper, and reenact the story!



Craft Two: “DiscipleSHIP Sailboat”

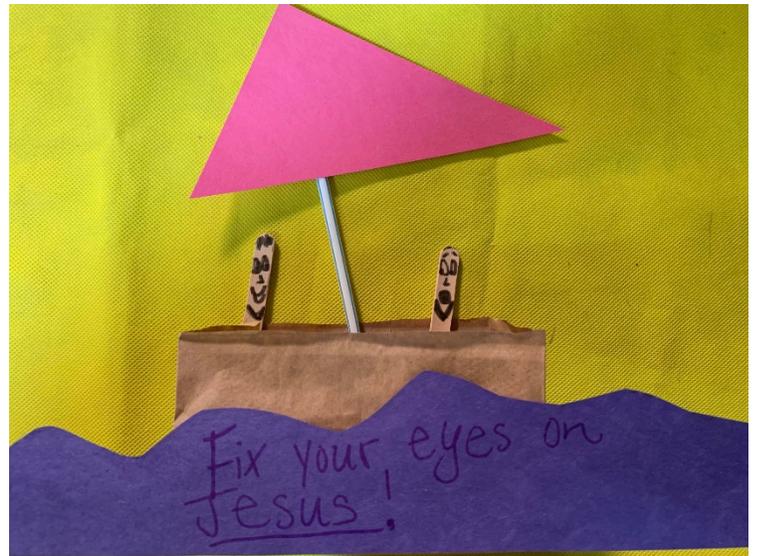
You will need:

- Paper bag
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Extra decorations (stickers, etc.)
- Caption or verse
- Markers or crayons
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue or tape
- Pipe Cleaner or straws



Procedure:

1. Cut the bag in half, either width-wise or length-wise.
2. Cut construction paper into “waves” and “sail” for the boat.
3. Add a verse or caption outside of the bag.
4. Add a “sail” inside the bag with a paper attached to a straw or stick.
5. Decorate popsicle stick “disciples” and add them inside the boat.



Extra Crafts & Activities for Sunday School

- Use squirt guns with colored water to make special sidewalk art.
- Decorate your own floating water rings.
- Use recycled items (shoeboxes, foil, rubber bands, paper, etc.) to create your own mini sailboats, and see if you can make them float!
- Make traced footprints to remember the walking element, and staying “in Christ’s footprints”.
- Have a water balloon fight!
- Test objects (crafty or otherwise) to see what might sink or float.





These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO. She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May 2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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