



# Walking on Water

**Lesson Aim:** To see how this story connects with our habits of fear and the salvation of our souls.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** Jesus as Savior

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Matthew 14:22-34

**What He has done:** Jesus walked on water and saved Peter from drowning.

**Key Verse:** Matthew 14:30

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Psalm 130:1-8

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Unit 4: Jesus as Savior			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
17	Saving the Official's Son, John 4:46-54	Jesus healed the official's son with His words alone.	To understand the difference between trusting Jesus to perform miracles and trusting Jesus as your Savior.
18	Walking on Water, Matthew 14:22-34	Jesus walked on water and saved Peter from drowning.	To see how this story connects with our habits of fear and the salvation of our souls.
19	Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind, John 9:1-7, 13-25, 35-39	Jesus saved the man from blindness and spiritual darkness.	To understand Jesus saves us from spiritual darkness.
20	Appearing to Thomas, John 20:24-31	Jesus appeared and proved to Thomas that He was the risen Lord.	To understand Jesus saves us from our doubts.
21	Appearing to the Disciples, Luke 24:36-49	Jesus opened the disciples' minds.	To see Jesus gives us the understanding to know He is the promised Savior and the power to spread the word.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 69:1-36. Please join us in praying, "Lord, replace our fear with confidence in our Savior. Help the children focus on You instead of their fears. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Rescue Relay	Inflatable life preserver (swim ring or other floatation device) and rope (over 15 feet in length) for each team
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "I Am the Way" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "For by Him" "Neither Death nor Life" "You Will Seek Me" (With All Your Heart) <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Standing on the Promises of God" "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> 2 Samuel 22:7	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 18 Bonzai Brothers script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Matthew 14:22-34	Map—Sea of Galilee, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discussion</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Psalm 130:1-8	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treat—"No Fear" sticker (or magnet), W <sup>3</sup> s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Rescue Ring Donuts	Mini donut or bagels
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Fearless Focus	Pencils, slips of paper or small index cards, bag or hat
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> "No Fear" Key Chain	Large key rings or pipe cleaners, craft foam or felt, hole punch, crayons or markers, available craft decorations such as glitter glue, craft gems, fabric scraps, etc.
	Up to 10	<b>The Apostles' Creed Study</b>	Poster or individual copies of The Apostles' Creed
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> The Wave	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Walking on the Word	2 Bibles, sturdy paper, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," CD player, floor tape, 2 containers
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Timeline

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What is the most amazing rescue you have ever seen?**

### **GAME: RESCUE RELAY**

**Purpose:** Children will compete in a relay race to introduce the water rescue theme.

**Supplies:** Inflatable life preserver (swim ring or other floatation device) and rope (over 15 feet in length) for each team

**Prepare:** Tie one end of the rope around the swim ring.

**Today, we will discover how Jesus rescued Peter from drowning in the Sea of Galilee. First, let's divide into teams for a relay race to see which team performs the fastest rescue.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Assign two (or more) teams with equal number of players.
2. Team members line up, shoulder to shoulder.
3. Give the rope and life preserver to the first player, known as the "Rescuer," in each team's line.
4. On your signal, the Rescuer holds one end of the rope and passes the life preserver down the line to the last player in line.
5. The last player ties the life preserver around his or her waist, or holds it securely.
6. The Rescuer now "pulls" the last player to the front of the line to become the new Rescuer.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until each player has completed a turn as Rescuer.
8. The first team to have rescued all players is the winner.

**Have you ever seen or heard about a rescue at sea? (Children respond.) Today we will hear about a miracle rescue that Jesus' disciples saw from their boat on the Sea of Galilee.**



Jesus as Savior

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

**Today, we worship Jesus as our Savior. In today's story, we see how Jesus not only walked on water and saved Peter from danger, but He also showed He was the Savior God had promised to send. When Peter was drowning, he knew that reaching out to the One who walked on water was the only way he would be rescued.**



You may choose to sing songs that focus on God's Son, our Rescuer.



Read 2 Samuel 22:7.



**When Jesus climbed into the boat, the wind stopped. That is when the disciples knew Jesus was the one God sent to save them. Jesus is God's only Son. Calling upon Him to save us is the only way we can have life forever close to God. Jesus explained this in His own words in our Bible Memory Verse. Sing Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Am the Way."**

**As we give our offering today, let's ask God to use this money to help rescue those in need and to help them call upon Jesus as their Savior. Sing: "Neither Death nor Life" as the offering is collected.**



Perform Bonzai Brothers script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 4, Lesson 18.



Jesus walked on water and saved Peter

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned Jesus healed the official's son with His words alone. This made a way for the official to believe in Jesus. Today, we will discover that Jesus walked on water and saved Peter from drowning in the lake called the Sea of Galilee. If a map of Ancient Israel is available, point to the Sea of Galilee. This miracle occurred during the fourth watch of the night. That is a phrase used during Bible times to describe the darkest hours of the night, from about 3am to 6am.**



**Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Matthew 14:22-34. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Matthew 14:30.**

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**Listen carefully as we read exactly what happened on the Sea of Galilee that night. Read Matthew 14:22-34.**



Jesus saves us

## THE WAY

[Worrying about the unknown.] **No one had ever seen someone walk on water. When the disciples saw a figure coming toward them on the water, they were terrified. Who did they think it was? (A ghost.) Have you ever been afraid when you saw or heard something you have never seen or heard before? (Children respond.) Worrying about the unknown is a habit of fear. To break that habit, we can focus on our all-powerful God, who is always in control.**

[Forgetting what we know.] **Did the frightened disciples call out for Jesus? (No.) Can you think of a frightening time when you forgot to call out or pray to God? (Children respond.) Forgetting what we know about God's love and power is another habit of fear. The disciples had seen Jesus calm the sea, heal the sick, and raise the dead. Earlier that day, they saw Him feed 5000 people with one boy's lunch! How might praying together or reminding each other of those miracles have calmed their fears? (Children respond.) Praying for His help and remembering His miracles are two ways we can break our habit of fear.**

[Focusing on danger.] **At first, was Peter able to walk on water? (Yes.) Why did He begin to sink? (He saw the wind and was afraid.) Taking our focus off of Jesus and focusing on the danger or problem is another habit of fear. Peter showed us how to break that fear habit. What did Peter do when he began to sink? (He cried out, "Lord, save me!") Like Peter, to be saved we must cry out to Jesus, and we must focus on Jesus instead of our fears.**

If time allows, play the FEARLESS FOCUS game located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

**How is this miracle like a picture of the way Jesus saves our souls? (Children respond.) Jesus saved Peter's life. If we cry out to Jesus asking Him to save us, He will save our souls. What does it mean for a soul to be saved? (Children respond.) All who believe in Jesus and call upon Him to be their Lord and Savior are saved from God's punishment for their sin, forgiven, and given eternal life. This means their souls live forever close with God.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**Hundreds of years before Peter cried out for Jesus to save him, a psalmist wrote about waiting for the Lord to save his soul. He knew that would only come through the forgiveness of sins. As we read this psalm, listen for ways it reminds you of Peter and Jesus on the Sea of Galilee.**



**FIND IT FIRST> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 130:1-8. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Psalm 130:1-8.**

**What happened after Jesus climbed into the boat? (The wind calmed and the disciples worshiped Jesus as the Son of God.) The disciples had seen many miracles. Why do you think this one helped them recognize Jesus as the Son of God? (Children respond.) What miracles have you witnessed? (Children respond.) What have those miracles shown you about Jesus? (Children respond.) What kind of miracle would convince you Jesus is God's Son who has the power to save all who believe in Him? (Children respond.)**

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a sticker that says "No Fear!" Wear it and remember that when you focus on Jesus and not on your fears, then you will not be afraid.

**W<sup>3</sup>:** Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #18. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jesus walking on water. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Am the Way," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SNACK: RESCUE RING DONUTS**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a rescue ring-shaped snack to remind them Jesus rescues us from our fears.

**Snack Suggestion:** Mini donut or bagels

Today we are learning that in frightening moments, Jesus will help us, so we do not need to be afraid. Jesus rescues us from our fears. For our snack, let's enjoy some "rescue ring donuts." The donuts are the same shape as a life preserver or rescue rings.

**Directions:**

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When have you needed a rescue from danger?"**

### **GAME: FEARLESS FOCUS**

**Purpose:** Children will learn how to actually focus on Jesus when they are afraid.

**Supplies:** Pencils, slips of paper or small index cards, bag or hat

**When did Peter become afraid?** (When he looked at the wind, instead of looking at Jesus.) **Who did Peter call when he began to sink?** (Jesus.) **If we keep our focus on Jesus, our fear will not overwhelm us. Let's brainstorm ways to stay focused on Jesus when we are afraid.**

**Directions:**

1. Distribute paper and pencil to each child.
2. Children write or draw one thing that frightens him or her.
3. Children fold their paper and place it in a bag, hat, or similar container.
4. Volunteer selects one folded paper from the bag or hat and reads it aloud.
5. Lead brainstorming on specific ways to focus on Jesus.

**Example:** Fear of big dogs.

When you see a big dog that frightens you, focus on Jesus by:

1. Remembering how and why God made the dog.
2. Thinking about how God wants to comfort you. As a good God, He doesn't want the dog He created to make you afraid.
3. Thinking of ways God uses dogs to bring joy and comfort to others.
4. Singing a Bible Memory Verse Song or a praise song about Jesus. Let the words remind you that Jesus is all-powerful. He is with you even when a big dog appears.
5. Listing Bible stories that show Jesus is in control.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: "NO FEAR" KEY CHAIN**

**Purpose:** Children make key chains reminding them that with Jesus, we need not be afraid.

**Supplies:** Large key rings or pipe cleaners, craft foam or felt, hole punch, crayons or markers, available craft decorations such as glitter glue, craft gems, fabric scraps, etc.

**Prepare:** Cut craft foam or felt into 1-inch x 2-inch pieces. Display the following verse for children to copy:  
**"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." Hebrews 13:6b**

Jesus was there to help Peter when he began to sink. With Jesus as his helper, Peter had nothing to fear. Jesus is our helper too. When we focus on Jesus and not our fears, then we can make it through the difficult times without fear. Today we'll make a keychain to remind us that we have no reason to fear. If you have keys, put them on your new key chain. If not, attach the keychain to your backpack or hang it in your home to give you courage.

### **Directions:**

1. Give each child a key ring and piece of craft foam.
2. Children print the following verse onto their foam pieces: **"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." Hebrews 13:6b**
3. Decorate the foam pieces using markers and available craft decorations such as glitter glue, craft gems, fabric scraps, etc.
4. Punch a hole in one end of the craft foam piece.
5. Insert the key ring through the hole.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED STUDY**

**Purpose:** This 10 statement study assists in the understanding and memorization of the Apostles' Creed. It is divided into 2 parts: Part 1—The Father and The Son and Part 2—The Spirit and The Saints. While designed for ages 10 and above, discussions may be adapted to other age levels.

**Supplies:** Create a poster or provide individual copies of The Apostles' Creed for children. For related tips and activities, go to ResourceWell.org.

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Statement 8, Part 2: The Spirit and the Saints

**“(I believe in) the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,”**

The word “catholic” has two meanings. When it is capitalized, it refers to a certain church group called the Roman Catholic Church. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church is the Pope. The Apostles' Creed uses the other meaning of catholic. When the word catholic is not capitalized, it means universal or worldwide. “The holy catholic church” refers to the whole group of believers from every tribe, nation, and denomination.

Volunteer reads 1 Corinthians 1:2. **While we may worship and serve in different places all over the world, we are still one church made up of people who follow Jesus. Why do you think the worldwide church is such an important part of our faith?** (We are one family building God's kingdom together.) **Does anyone have questions about this statement of our faith?**

**Saints means believers. The “communion of saints” does not refer to the taking of the bread and the cup at the Lord's Supper. In the Apostles' Creed, it means coming together.**

Volunteer reads Matthew 18:20. **God wants His believers to gather and worship Him together. He promises that wherever two or more are gathered in His name, He is there, too!** Volunteer reads Hebrews 10:25. **The Bible reminds us never to give up meeting together with the saints. Why do you think it is important for believers (saints) to get together often?** (In gathering to worship, we can worship in unity. We are encouraged to come together to remember who God is and what He has done in our lives.) **Does anyone have questions about this statement of our faith? Why do you think God wants us to assemble?** Brainstorm ways to connect the church worldwide. Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

### **GAME: THE WAVE**

**Purpose:** Children memorize the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verses.

**Supplies:** Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

**Jesus was with God in the very beginning. Together they created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!**

#### **Directions:**

1. Assign one word or phrase from John 14:6 and Romans 10:9 to each child or group.
2. Direct each child/group to quickly stand and say the assigned word or phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to the thighs, and finally sitting down.
3. Repeat three times, going faster each time.

### **GAME: WALKING ON THE WORD**

**Purpose:** Children memorize the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verses.

**Supplies:** 2 Bibles or the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster, sturdy paper, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," CD player, floor tape, 2 containers

**Prepare:** Label the two containers "Boat 1" and "Boat 2." From sturdy paper, cut 40 paper footprints. Create two sets of 20 paper footprints, each with one of the following 20 phrases: I am/the way/and the truth/and the life./No one/comes to/the Father/except/through Me./If you/confess/with your mouth/"Jesus is Lord"/and believe/in your heart/that God/raised Him/from the dead/you will/be saved.

**Optional:** Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints. To increase degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

**Our Bible Memory Verse is two different verses. John 14:6 quotes Jesus' exact words promising He is the only way to come to God the Father. Romans 10:9 explains the promise concerning what we must do to be saved. In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Then, each member will say step on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the cross.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Divide children into 2 teams. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
2. Place 1 set of 20 footprints in each "boat." Place the boats at one end of the play area.
3. Use floor tape to mark the shape of a large cross at the other end of the play area.
4. Teams race to place footprints in the correct order in a path from their boat to the cross.
5. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the cross.
6. The first team to have all its members reach the cross is the winner.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part One studies the miracles of Jesus, which took place during His public ministry (Circa 30-33 A.D.). This list is not chronological, as the Bible does not give a definitive order of the miracles. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Ascending into Heaven (Circa 30-33 A.D.)** What did Jesus do for His disciples in Bethany just before He was taken up to heaven? (He blessed them.) **Afterward, why did the disciples go to the temple?** (To praise God.) **Where is the Lord Jesus now?** (In heaven.)

**Saving the Official's Son (Circa 30-33 A.D.)** What did Jesus say when the official asked Jesus to heal his son? ("You may go. Your son will live.") **The man trusted Jesus to keep His promise that the boy would live. On the man's way home, what news did the servants bring?** (His son was healed.)

**Walking on Water (Circa 30-33 A.D.)** What did Jesus do when the disciples' boat was tossed by the wind and waves? (He came to them by walking on the water.) **Peter tried to walk on the water but became afraid. What did Jesus do when Peter cried out, "Lord, save me"?** (He reached out and saved him.)

### How to create a Bible Timeline for the Miracles of Jesus:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.  
Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

The Miracles of Jesus: (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Changing Water into Wine > Filling the Nets > Calming the Storm > Healing Jairus' Daughter > Feeding the Five Thousand > Healing the Centurion's Servant > Healing the Paralyzed Man > Healing the Sick Woman > Healing the Deaf and Mute Man > Healing the Ten Men > Banishing an Evil Spirit > Saving the Official's Son > Walking on Water > Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind > Raising Lazarus > Riding into Jerusalem > The Miracle of Easter > Appearing to the Disciples > Appearing to Thomas > Appearing on the Shore > Ascending into Heaven