

Trusting Jesus

OBJECTIVE: *To encourage each other to keep our eyes on Jesus and trust him.*



WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about doing good that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

"Be Still and Know"

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

"Jesus, Jesus"

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

"My God Is So Great"

"O How I Love Jesus"

"O Lord, You Have Been Good"

"O Most High"

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

STORY

Jesus Walks on Water, Matthew 14:22-33

- Jesus' friends are unable to cross the lake because of high winds.
- Jesus walks across the water to help his friends.
- Jesus allows Peter to walk across the water to him and ends up rescuing Peter from the water.

Place a blue sheet on the floor. Ask one person to get at each end of the sheet and shake the sheet gently to make waves. They can shake it harder to make stormy waves. Act out the story with one person representing Jesus and one being Peter. The rest can be disciples in the boat.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2).

Help the children remember this verse by asking them to point to their eyes when they say *eyes* and point upward when they say *Jesus*.

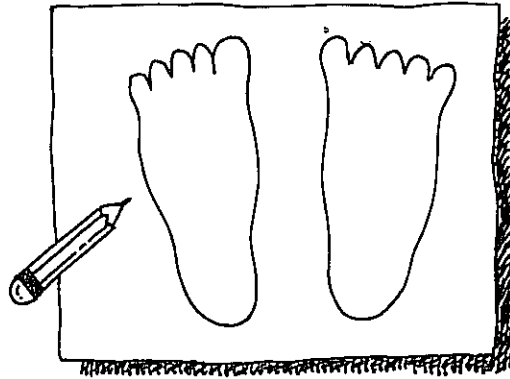
ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

FOOTPRINTS (for younger children). Let children stand barefooted on paper. Draw around their feet. Discuss Jesus and Peter walking on water, Matthew 14:22-33.

MAKE A STORY. Let everyone help record the story as an audio drama. Use a narrator and let others be voices and sound effects.

SOAP FLAKE SEA. Pour Ivory clothes detergent into a large bowl. Add water a little at a time, whipping it with the electric mixer until it's thick and creamy. Add blue food coloring. Each person uses the mixture as finger paint, painting it onto cardboard or a paper plate, making peaks as if they were waves. You may cut out a small half-circle to represent a boat and stick it onto one of the waves. Let it dry. Caution: Since this mixture is soap, do not let the children get it into their eyes or mouths. Discuss Matthew 14:22-33.



WALK THIS WAY. Pantomime walking on different surfaces: mud, deep snow, rocks, ice, hot sand, puddles, deep grass, a swinging bridge, a row of tires, a crowded sidewalk, deep soft carpet, and so on. If you want, whisper one of these into each person's ear. The person then mimes it, and the others guess what he's pretending to walk on. Discuss Matthew 14:22-33.

FEEL THE PATH. Lay out a path made of a variety of materials: cotton balls, linoleum tiles, carpet samples, plush bath mat, masking tape (sticky side up), leaves, piece of plywood, cardboard, sandpaper, and so on. Let everyone walk barefooted over the material. Talk about how it might have felt to Peter when he walked on water.

QUESTIONS

1. What does this story tell you about Jesus?
2. What does this story tell you about Peter?
3. When Peter was sinking, how did he call for help?
4. When Peter failed, who picked him up? When we fail, who picks us up?

KIDS' COUNCIL

BRING IT HOME

- Why did Peter begin to sink? Read Hebrews 12:2. What does it mean to fix (or keep) our eyes on Jesus?
- What are some fears (wind and waves) in your life? What did Jesus say in Matthew 14:27?
- How will you keep your eyes on Jesus this week? In other words, how will you keep thinking about Jesus and trusting him?

SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Ask God to help us not to be afraid, because Jesus will help us.
- Thank God that Jesus helps us and we can trust him.

ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Are there any situations right now in your life in which you need to fix your eyes on Jesus?
- What are some things that draw our eyes away from Jesus?
- What are some specific, practical things you can do to help yourself keep your eyes on Jesus?
- In the story of Jesus walking on the water, we often focus on Peter's failure. What was Peter's success? Have you ever focused so much on your failure in a situation that you forgot about the successful aspects of it?

SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

Pizzas With Eyes. Make small pizzas out of English muffins. Spread pizza sauce on top of English muffins. Place sliced black olives on top to make two eyes. A crescent-shaped slice of onion, green pepper, or avocado can be a mouth. Shredded mozzarella cheese can be hair. Broil until bubbly and serve. Talk about fixing our eyes on Jesus.

