

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



1. WALKING ON WATER

WHAT YOU NEED: shallow, plastic tub; water; plastic toy people; small toy boat

WHAT YOU DO:

During the Activity:

- Fill the tub partway with water.
 - Act out the Bible story using the toy people and boat.
- Allow each child to have a turn acting out the Bible story using the water, people, and boat.

After the Activity:

- Talk about how God gave us His Son, Jesus, to help us change the world around us.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity:

"Come stand with me! We are going to talk about today's Bible story using this water, some toy people, and a boat!"

During the Activity:

"In our Bible story today, some of Jesus' friends were in a boat. *(Place a boat on top of the water. Put a few toy people in the boat.)* One of Jesus' friends was Peter. *(Hold up one toy person to be Peter.)*

"While they were in the boat, they saw Someone walking on the water. *(Make a toy person "walk" on the water towards the boat.)* They knew people cannot walk on water, so they were very afraid. Then the Person walking on the water said, 'Don't be afraid. It's Me, Jesus!'

"When Peter heard that it was Jesus, he wanted to walk on water too! Jesus told Peter to come to Him. *(Make "Peter" walk towards "Jesus" on the water.)* And guess what! Peter walked on water . . . until he looked around and saw the wind blowing. Then he was afraid and began to sink in the water. *(Make "Peter" begin to sink.)* Jesus helped Peter out of the water, and they got into the boat together. *(Make "Jesus" save Peter and then get back in the boat together.)*

"Peter and Jesus' other friends were SO amazed that Jesus had walked on water! They said to Jesus, 'You are God's Son!'" *(Repeat as the children take turns.)*

After the Activity:

"Jesus is special, because Jesus is God's Son. When we follow Jesus, God can help us change the world around us. **Who can help you change the world around you? God can help me change the world around me!"**

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Peter Walks on Water
MATTHEW 14:22-33

MEMORY VERSE

"Lord, you are more powerful than the roar of the ocean. You are stronger than the waves of the sea."
PSALM 93:4 , NIrV

KEY QUESTION

Who can help you change the world around you?

BOTTOM LINE

God can help me change the world around me.

BASIC TRUTH

God made me.

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



2. WATER WALKIN' VERSE

WHAT YOU NEED: large blue sheet

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity:

- Lay the blue sheet out flat on the floor of your activity area.
- Gather the children to stand around the sheet.

During the Activity:

- Encourage the children to hop onto the sheet (water), say the verse with the motions, and hop back off.
- Repeat several times to review the verse as time and interest allow.

After the Activity:

- Gather the blue sheet and set aside.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Peter Walks on Water
MATTHEW 14:22-33

MEMORY VERSE

"Lord, you are more powerful than the roar of the ocean. You are stronger than the waves of the sea."
PSALM 93:4 , NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity:

"Friends, come stand around the water here with me! When I say, 'HOP!' I want you to hop onto the water and say the Memory Verse with me. Then I'll say, 'Hop off!' and we'll hop back onto the shore. Ready? Hop!"

During the Activity:

"Good job! Now let's say our verse together.

"'Lord, you are (*point up*) more powerful than (*muscle arms*) the roar of the ocean. (*hands by mouth*) You are stronger than (*muscle arms*) the waves of the sea,' (*arms make waves*) Psalm 93:4, NIV." (*open hands like a book*)

After the Activity:

"That was fun! God is so strong and so powerful! God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. When we follow Jesus, God can help us change the world around us. **Who can help you change the world around you? God can help me change the world around me.**"

KEY QUESTION

Who can help you change the world around you?

BOTTOM LINE

God can help me change the world around me.

BASIC TRUTH

God made me.

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



3. STICK WITH JESUS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Stick with Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, 8" x 10" adhesive magnetic sheets, cookie sheets, zip-top bags, black permanent marker
Note: Always monitor preschoolers closely when using magnets of any size.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

Who can help you change the world around you?

BOTTOM LINE

God can help me change the world around me.

BASIC TRUTH

God made me.

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity:

- Copy "Stick with Jesus" on cardstock and cut on dotted lines.
- Adhere the "Stick with Jesus" Activity Page pieces to the magnetic sheets and cut appropriately.

During the Activity:

- Lay the cookie sheets out on the activity tables.
- While you talk about the Bible story, encourage the children to play it out using the magnets on the cookie sheets.

After the Activity:

- Gather the pieces into baggies for storage.
- Optional: Send a set home with each child.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity:

"Come join me over here at the table, friends. We have a couple cookie sheets laid out that are going to help us retell the story."

During the Activity:

"Let's use the magnets to tell our story. As I say what happened in the story, use the magnets to make that happen on your cookie sheet. Everyone, hold up your 'Peter' and show him to me. Great job! Now, hold up 'Jesus.' Good job. Let's start."

"Our story starts with a boat on the water. Everyone put your waves and boat on your cookie sheet. And who remembers who was in the boat? (*Pause.*) Peter and his friends. That's right. We only have Peter, so let's put Peter in the boat. Good job.

"Now, who remembers what Peter and his friends saw on the water? (*Pause.*) You're right! It was Jesus, and Jesus was walking on water! Wow! Let's all put our Jesus outside of the boat and walking on the water towards the boat.

"Next, something amazing happened. Peter told Jesus to help him walk on water too—and Jesus did! He helped Peter walk on water. Take your Peter out of the boat and make him walk on water towards Jesus.



DAY
TWO
SUMMER 2021

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

ROTATION

HOME

(3. STICK WITH JESUS, CONTINUED)

"But Peter started to get scared and started to sink. Make your Peter go under the water. But Jesus caught him and wouldn't let him fall. Make your Jesus go to Peter and help him up.

"Then, they both got back with the boat with their friends. Let's put Peter and Jesus both back in the boat. Their friends were amazed, and they all said to Jesus, 'You are God's Son!' Great job! That was so much fun! Now let's try acting out the story on your own."

After the Activity:

"Jesus is special, because Jesus is God's Son. When we follow Jesus, God can help us change the world around us.

Who can help you change the world around you? God can help me change the world around me!"

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



4. FOAMY WATER

WHAT YOU NEED: blue gel shaving gel; sheet pans; Little People®; paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity:

- Squirt a mound of shaving gel on each sheet pan.

During the Activity:

- Have the children play and move the gel around on their pan.
- See if they can make waves in the shaving gel with their fingers.
- Walk the Little People on the shave gel "water."
- Smooth out the shaving cream and repeat as many times as desired.
- Clean hands as needed.

After the Activity:

- Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity:

"Friends, I'm so happy to see you today! Come find a seat at the table and let's get our hands messy!"

During the Activity:

"Use your hands to smooth out the shaving gel on the sheet. *(Pause.)* The shaving gel is changing from blue to white, like waves in the water.

"Walk the Little People across the water like Jesus and Peter did in our story today. *(Pause.)* Smooth out the water and do it again. *(Repeat as many times as desired.)* Use your finger to draw a heart in the shaving cream and put a Little People inside the heart you made. *(Pause.)* Super job, friends!"

After the Activity:

"Peter and the disciples were so amazed at what Jesus could do and how special He was. God sent Jesus to change the world and be our friend forever. Jesus made waves that changed the world. When we follow Jesus, God can help us change the world around us! **Who can help you change the world around you? God can help me change the world around me.**"

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KEY QUESTION

Who can help you change the world around you?

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God can help me change the world around me.

BASIC TRUTH

God made me.



MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Peter Walks on Water
MATTHEW 14:22-33

MEMORY VERSE

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Who can help you change the world around you?

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God made me.

5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus Sticker" Activity Page; Avery label #5163; heart stickers; paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Psalm 93:4; journal; fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU SAY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's small group time!

Today we're going to pretend we're jumping in water puddles while we walk to our small group spot. Splash, splash, splash! (*Jump in place while saying "splash."*) Who's ready to jump and splash with me? (*Pause.*) Yay! Follow me!"

Say "splash" each time you jump as you lead the children to your small group spot.

SGL: "One last splash (*jump in place!*) Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.

SGL: "We can splash in water, but we can't walk on water. Only Jesus can do that, because Jesus is God's Son. What did Peter want to do when he saw Jesus walking on water? (*Pause.*) Yes, Peter wanted to walk on water too. And Peter did walk on water when he was looking at Jesus! What happened when Peter started looking around at the wind? (*Pause.*) He started sinking! But Jesus saved Peter and got him back in the boat. Jesus is such a good friend.

"God gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. When we follow Jesus, God can help us change the world around us. Who can help you change the world around you?"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "God can help me change the world around me!"

SGL: "That's right! God can help you and me change the world around us. The Bible verse we are learning will help us remember that God is powerful and strong enough to help us with anything! It says:

Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.

SGL: "'Lord, you are more powerful than the roar of the ocean. You are stronger than the waves of the sea,' Psalm 93:4, NIV."

Close the Bible and lay it down.

SGL: "Let's stand up and say that together with these motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."



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CHILDREN AND SGL: "'Lord, you are (*point up*) more powerful than (*muscle arms*) the roar of the ocean. (*hands by mouth*) You are stronger than (*muscle arms*) the waves of the sea,' (*arms make waves*) Psalm 93:4, NIV." (*open hands like a book*)

Repeat the verse with the motions a few times.

SGL: "Good job! (*Two thumbs up.*) If Peter had remembered that God is more powerful than the roar of the ocean and stronger than the waves of the sea, then maybe he would have not been scared of the wind when he was walking on water.

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.

SGL: "God loves us and wants to help us change the world around us. That's one of the reasons God gave us His Son, Jesus. I have a special sticker of Jesus to put in our prayer journal today.

Hold up the Jesus sticker and put it in the center of a page in the prayer journal.

SGL: "When I say your name, I'll give you a heart sticker to put around Jesus. After you put your heart sticker on the page, say, 'Jesus is special because He is God's Son.'

Say each child's name. Give them a heart sticker to put around the "Jesus" sticker. Lead them in saying, "Jesus is special because He is God's Son."

SGL: "Look at all of the heart stickers! I'm so glad God gave us Jesus to help us change the world around us. Let's pray and thank God for Jesus. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. Jesus is so special, and He can do amazing things that only He can do! We love You, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. WALKING ON WATER

Made to Imagine: an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Shallow, plastic tub
- Water
- Plastic toy people
- Small toy boat

WHAT YOU DO:

- Fill a tub partway with water.

2. WATER WALKIN' VERSE

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large blue sheet

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay the blue sheet out flat on the floor of your activity area.

3. STICK WITH JESUS

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Stick with Jesus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- 8" x 10" adhesive magnetic sheets—one per child
- Cookie sheets—one per child
- Quart or gallon-sized zip-top bags
- Black permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy the "Stick with Jesus" Activity page on cardstock and cut on dotted lines.
- Remove the adhesive backing from the magnetic sheets and stick on the Activity Page pieces.

- Cut out so the magnetic sheet is the same shape as the piece of cardstock on top of it.
- Place magnetic scene and cookie sheets in the activity area.

4. FOAMY WATER

Made to Explore: an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Blue gel shaving cream
- Sheet pans
- Little People
- Paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- Squirt a mound of shaving gel on each sheet pan.

5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- "Memory Verse Card"
- "Jesus Sticker" Activity Page
- Avery label #5163
- Heart stickers
- Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Paperclip the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Psalm 93:4.
- Copy the "Jesus Sticker" on Avery label #5163.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. https://bit.ly/VBS2022_Preschool_Pinterest