



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

Jesus can do the impossible.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Walks on Water: Matthew 14:22-33

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Walk Like a Duck
- **ACTIVITY** | Sink or Float

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 14:22-33
- **ACTIVITY** | Floating Footprints
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **DISCUSSION** | Snack and Discussion
- **ACTIVITY** | Circle Time
- **ACTIVITY** | Don't Let Peter Sink
- **MEMORY VERSE** | John 14:6

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page of the Week
- **ACTIVITY** | Walk On Water
- **ACTIVITY** | Pretend Play



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

UNBELIEVABLE
THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

BIG IDEA

Jesus can do the impossible.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Walks On Water: Matthew 14:22-33

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Walk Like a Duck

- **Welcome to church!** Our series this month is called **Unbelievable** and we're learning about the **unbelievably amazing and true miracles of Jesus!** We've played with unicorns, dragons, and Big Foot so far. Today, we're using our imaginations to pretend we are other things.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Line the kids up on one side of the room and tell them to walk to the other side of the room, pretending to be whatever you say. Call out the following (or make up your own): duck, caterpillar, elephant, bunny, bird, horse.*
- It's fun to pretend with things that are not real, but the things we're going to learn about in our Bible story today are real. We're going to learn about a really cool miracle Jesus did to show His disciples that He was all powerful, and it had to do with how and where Jesus was walking.

ACTIVITY | Sink or Float

- Now we're going to play another game. Our Bible story is about things sinking and floating in water, so let's see if you can guess whether things are going to sink or float.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill a clear bowl or tub with water, then gather a variety of random objects. Practice ahead of time so you have about half that will sink and half that will float. Hold up each object and let the kids vote on whether they think it will sink or float, then show them and see if they guessed right.*
- **What about people? Do you think people would sink or float if we tried to walk on top of water?** Don't try this at home! We would sink. People can't walk on water, except we're going to learn in our Bible story about a time when someone did walk on water.

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend some time singing with your preschoolers. You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "My God is So Big," by Yancy and, "Dive In," by NewSpring.

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus can do the impossible.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, read it out loud.
 - This week's Big Idea: **Jesus can do the impossible.**

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 14:22-33

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and read it to your preschoolers.
- This month we have been learning about the miracles of Jesus. Miracles are things that only God can do. The first week, we learned about Jesus healing a man who was sick, then we learned about Jesus making a storm stop and last week we learned about Jesus feeding 5,000 people with just some fish and bread. **What was the miracle in today's Bible story?**
- The miracle in this story was Jesus walking on the water and letting Peter walk on water too. **How do you think the disciples first felt when they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water?**
- The Bible says they were *terrified!* **Show me what it would look like to be scared and terrified.**
- The first thing Jesus said to them was to have courage. **Can you show me what it looks like to have courage?**
- It can be hard to have courage when we're afraid. The disciples had never seen anyone walking on water; I probably would have been afraid too! It seems impossible to walk on water, but Jesus is all-powerful. That means He can do anything. **Say this with me: Jesus can do the impossible!**
- Now, let's talk about Peter. Peter didn't just stay in the boat; he showed great courage and bravery by getting out of the boat and walking on the water to Jesus.
- Peter had faith. Faith is knowing and trusting Jesus no matter what. But, what happened next? (Peter got scared and started sinking.) Peter focused on the wrong things (the wind and waves) and stopped focusing on Jesus.
- **When we are afraid and faced with big challenges, we can have faith and trust in God because He is always with us.**

ACTIVITY | Floating Footprints

- That was a great Bible story where we learned about an unbelievable miracle! We learned that Jesus and Peter walked on water. Let's see if we can make these footprints float on water to remind us of the cool miracle Jesus did. **Do you think paper will float? What about paper clips?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a bowl with water. Show the kids some footprints cut out of paper and tell them that you are going to pretend those are Jesus. Tell them the paper clip is like Peter. Then put the paper clip in the water (it will sink). This reminds us that people can't walk on water. Take the footprints and place them on the surface of the water ask again if the kids think the footprints will sink or float. The footprints represent Jesus (they will float). You can lay the paper clip carefully on the paper footprint, so it is "floating."
- Last week we learned that Jesus had just fed 5,000 people with the 5 loaves and 2 fish earlier that day. Then we learned that He went to pray alone, and later that night is when the disciples saw him walking on water. **Why do you think Jesus did this miracle?**
- He did this miracle to show His power. Jesus can do the impossible. That's why we can trust Him and have faith.
- Peter could only stay on top of the water when He focused on Jesus and when he had the power of Jesus helping him.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for the example of Jesus when He showed us that we can serve others. Help us to see opportunities to serve and love other people. In Jesus' name, amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

DISCUSSION | Snack and Discussion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a snack to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!
- **Who was in the boat?** (The disciples.)
- **How did the disciples feel when they first saw Jesus?** (They were terrified.)
- **Who got out of the boat to walk on water?** (Peter)
- **What happened to Peter when he saw the wind and the waves?** (He started to sink.)
- **What did the disciples do after the miracle?** (They worshiped Jesus.)

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to sit in a circle and stand up and walk when you say "Walk, walk, walk on water." Then when you say "Sink!" they will sit down as fast as they can. You can have fun with it and take your time, or say "sink" quickly. For the older kids, you can mix it up and say "walk fast" or "walk slow" or "walk backwards." The last kid to "sink" each round can answer a question.
 - **Do you enjoy going swimming?**
 - **Do you think Peter was scared when he got out of the boat and stepped onto the water?**
 - **What is something cool that God has done?**
 - **Why do you think Jesus let Peter walk on water too?**
 - **The wind and the waves made Peter forget about Jesus; what are some things that can make us forget about Jesus?**
 - **What is your favorite miracle that you've heard about God doing?**
 - **What is something God wants you to do that takes courage?**

ACTIVITY | Don't Let Peter Sink

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Blow up a balloon and draw a face on it with a marker. Tell the kids we're pretending the balloon is Peter and the floor will be the water. They have to bop him up in the air so he stays on top of the water doesn't sink. To make it harder, you can tell them to put their feet on the ground and freeze.
- **How do you think the other disciples felt when they saw Peter walking on water? How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples in the boat?**
- Peter was courageous when he stepped out of the boat. He got to be a part of an amazing miracle and got to experience the power of Jesus in an awesome way. He started to sink when he looked at the wind and the waves instead of Jesus.
- Sometimes, God wants us to do things that take courage so we can see His power and let Him help us. He might ask us to be nice to someone we don't know or pray for someone. **When we do what God wants us to do, we might see amazing things because God is all powerful, and He can do the impossible.**

MEMORY VERSE | John 4:16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder for ideas on how to help your preschoolers memorize Bible verses. Here are the hand motions for this month's memory verse . . .

I AM THE WAY (hold one arm out to the side),
THE TRUTH (hold the other arm out to the side),
AND THE LIFE (point both arms up).
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER (shake one finger)
EXCEPT THROUGH ME (point up).

TALK | Recap of the Month

- We've learned so much this month! We've been talking all about the unbelievable and amazing miracles of Jesus! Let's see if you can remember what we talked about.
 - When we heard the story of Jesus healing the leper, we learned that **Jesus cares about us when we're sick.**
 - When we heard the story of Jesus calming the storm, we learned that **Jesus cares about us when we're afraid.**
 - When we heard the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, we learned that **Jesus can provide for our needs.**
 - And today, when we heard the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water, we learned that **Jesus can do the impossible.**

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page of the Week

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them how Jesus is all-powerful.

ACTIVITY | Walk on the Water

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tape some pieces of blue construction paper to the floor, going from one side of the room to the other. Tell the kids to walk across the room by walking on the blue paper, and pretending they are walking on water.*

ACTIVITY | Pretend Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give your preschoolers a toy boat and some play people and tell them to act out the Bible story using their toys. You can put blue paper down to be the water.*

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.