



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OVERVIEW



BIG IDEA

Jesus can do the impossible.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Walks on Water: Matthew 14:22-33
(2 Corinthians 4:18; Matthew 17:20)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Invisible Ink Pictures
- **ACTIVITY** | Magic Bean Guessing Game
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Sink or Float
- **BIG IDEA** | Jesus can do the impossible.
- **STORY** | Share about a time when you had to get out of your comfort zone.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 14:22-33
- **VIDEO** | The Dead Sea
- **ACTIVITY** | Get Out of the Boat
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Floating Footprints
- **SCRIPTURE** | 2 Corinthians 4:18
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Walking Water
- **PRAYER**
- **ACTIVITY** | Watercolor Paintings
- **QUESTION** | What's your favorite fairytale?
- **TALK** | Recap of the Month
- **MEMORY VERSES** | John 14:6; Jeremiah 29:11

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - Why were the disciples scared?
 - What did Jesus do that was impossible?
 - What did Peter do that showed faith?
 - What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus?
 - What does it mean to take your eyes off Jesus?
 - Where in your life do you need to trust Jesus more, and have faith?
 - What can you do to "step out of the boat" and get outside your comfort zone to have more faith?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Matthew 17:20
 - What do you think it means to have faith as small as a mustard seed?
 - What in your life have you need to have faith?
- **ACTIVITY** | Floating Paper clips
- **MEMORY VERSES** | John 14:6; Jeremiah 29:11



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

UNBELIEVABLE
THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

BIG IDEA

Jesus can do the impossible.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Walks on Water: Matthew 14:22-33
(2 Corinthians 4:18; Matthew 17:20)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Invisible Ink Pictures

- We've been having so much fun this month talking about the unbelievable miracles Jesus did! We've learned about Jesus healing a leper, calming a storm, feeding 5,000 people with fish and bread, and today, we're going to learn about another unbelievable miracle of Jesus.
- But before we talk about the unbelievable miracles of Jesus, let me show you something else that's pretty unbelievable.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As the kids are coming in, pass out white paper and white crayons to each child. Tell them to draw something on their paper that represents something about themselves—it can be anything, so encourage them to be creative. The catch is that they can only draw using the white crayon, which will be a challenge on white paper. After a few kids have finished pictures, tell them to put their pictures in the middle of the room, mix them up, and then tell each kid to choose one out of the pile. They will all look the same: plain white, so they won't know whose picture they chose. Once everyone has a drawing, give them watercolor paint to paint all over the picture, and like magic, the crayon picture will appear! They can give the pictures back to their original creators.*
- **Can you guess whose picture they have, based on the picture that appeared?**
- Isn't it amazing how the hidden message showed up after you painted over it?
- When you first chose a paper from the pile, you didn't know whose it was. But just because you couldn't see the picture didn't mean it wasn't there. It was there the whole time!

- Sometimes trusting in Jesus is kind of like that. We can't always see Him or what He's doing, but we can trust He's always there. We're going to learn today about how important it is to trust and focus on Jesus.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Instead of drawing with white crayons on white paper, you can give your kids with special needs paper and crayons and have them draw themselves on the paper. Ask them to draw something that makes them unique and special. As they are drawing, remind them that God cares about them and has a plan for their lives. If they can't draw, you can have them dictate what they would draw to someone who can draw it with them.*

ACTIVITY | Magic Bean Guessing Game

- Our theme this month is about unbelievable things. We've already talked about unbelievable pretend things, like unicorns, and Big Foot, and dragons – things from fairy tales. **Do you have a favorite fairy tale?**
- You may have heard the fairytale about Jack and the magic bean stalk. It all started with magic beans that grew into a giant magic bean stalk.
- We have some magic beans here with secret flavors. If you want to try one, you have to guess what flavor it's going to be before you taste it. It could be good . . . and it could be bad. You won't know until you try it. You have to have courage to play this game!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Call a few kids up and let them play the game by eating the jelly beans and trying to guess the flavor. It might be good – it might be gross. For those who come up and play, you can have a small prize or piece of candy for them.*
- **How many of you were scared to come up and try the beans?** It took some courage for those who came up to step out and try the beans, knowing that they might get a bad flavor. But they ended up getting a prize in the end!
- **Sometimes it pays off to step outside your comfort zone.** We're going to learn today about someone who did just that. As a result, he got to experience an incredible miracle!
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Turn this game into Jelly Bean Roulette. Give each preteen a jelly bean. When you say "Go," they'll all eat them at once. If it's gross, they'll sit down. If it's good, they'll advance. Keep playing until you have a winner.*

OBJECT LESSON | Sink or Float

- The miracle in our Bible story is about someone who could walk on water.
- **Do you think if I tried to walk on water, I would sink or float?** I would sink, because people can't walk on water!
- Let's do an experiment to see whether different objects sink or float in water.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hold up each object and ask the kids to vote on whether they think it will sink or float. After they vote, put each object in the water and let the kids see if they guessed right.*
- We said earlier that humans sink, but can we also make ourselves float? Yes, we can lay on our backs and float on water if we want to, but what would happen if you tried to walk on water with your feet? You would definitely sink!
- Today, we are going to talk about two people who walked on water. Can you believe that? It sounds kind of unbelievable!

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *This is a great opportunity to give your kids with special needs a hands-on experience with tubs of water and different items. Let them put some items in water and see for themselves if the items sink or float. Any time you can let them touch and do something tangible, that will give them a different way to engage in the lesson.*

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, ask someone to come up and read it.*
- This week’s Big Idea: **Jesus can do the impossible.**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

STORY | Share about a time you had to step out of your comfort zone.

- Let me tell you about a time when I had to get out of my comfort zone to trust Jesus.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Share a story that illustrates faith and how Jesus came through and did the impossible when you faced something difficult in your life.*

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 14:22-33

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water?**
- **How would you have felt if you would have been in their position?**
- The Bible doesn’t just say they were scared—it says they were terrified!
- The first thing Jesus said to His disciples was to have courage. That’s because Jesus could tell how scared they were.
- **Is it easy to have courage when we’re afraid?** It can be hard.
- Peter was amazed when he saw Jesus walk on water, but he didn’t just sit in the boat and watch. He decided to be brave and come join Jesus on the water. He stepped out of the boat and the impossible happened – Peter was able to walk on water too.
- **How do you think Peter felt when that happened?**
- Peter trusted Jesus enough to step out of the boat and have courage to do something that seemed impossible. He had faith. **Faith is having complete trust in Jesus.**
- But what happened next? Peter got scared again! He stopped looking at Jesus and started looking at the wrong things. He paid attention to the wind and the waves and became afraid. That’s when he started to sink.
- This story reminds us that, when we are scared, or facing problems, or feel like we’re starting to sink, we need to remember to focus on Jesus and let Him give us courage.
- **When we’re scared, we can trust God because Jesus can do the impossible.**

VIDEO | The Dead Sea

- Most of the time, people don't float very easily in water, but there is one body of water that is unlike any other! You couldn't sink in it if you tried! It's by Israel, and it is the lowest point on the whole earth. It has so much salt in it that everything in the whole sea floats.
- [Show this video.](#)
- **Why do people float in the Dead Sea?** It has really high levels of salt in it. The salt is denser, or heavier, than the water. That makes humans lighter, or less dense, than the water, so you can float!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can show kids how salt makes things float with this cool experiment. Put a hardboiled egg in a cup of regular water, and then in a cup of salt water (six tablespoons of salt mixed into a cup of water). The egg will float in the salt water.*

ACTIVITY | Get Out of the Boat

- To help encourage us to "get out of the boat" and trust Jesus, let's play a fun game about getting out of the boat!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tape a square (or use cones) to make a square in the middle of the room. Tell the kids to get inside the square, and when you call out "Get out of the boat!" they will run to one of the walls. The last kid to touch a wall is out. Keep playing until one or two kids are left; they are the winners.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Instead of just running to the wall, play the classic "Shipwreck" version of this game. Call out commands, and the preteens will race to do each action. The last person to get into position each time is out. Keep playing until you have a winner. Actions: Three Men in a boat (three people get together in a line sitting down like they're in a row boat); Man overboard (they get outside the "boat" and lay on the floor and pretend to swim); Attention (everyone stands and salutes); Dinner Time (four people sit at a pretend table and act like they're eating); Hit the Deck: (lay down on your stomach inside the boat); Port (everyone runs to the left side of the room); Starboard (everyone runs to the right side of the room).*
- **Do you think it was easy or difficult for Peter to step out of the boat?**
- **What would you have done if you were Peter?**
- **Why do you think none of the other disciples got out of the boat?**
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *During this game, you can give your kids with special needs a toy boat and some toy people. You can give them a tub filled with water (or pretend there's water) and let them act out the Bible story, with one toy person walking on the water—Jesus – and another toy person getting out of the boat and walking toward the pretend Jesus.*

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

OBJECT LESSON | Floating Footprints

- Let's try one more cool floating experiment!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill a bowl with water. Hold up some paper footprints and ask the kids if they think paper footprints will float or sink. As you teach, put a paper clip in the water and watch it sink. Then put a footprint on the water and place a paper clip on top to watch it float.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Give each preteen a ping pong ball and a permanent marker. Tell them to write*

something that they need God to do in their lives or help them with. Then they will put them in water and watch them “walk on water” and pray for God to do those things in their lives

- **Why do you think Jesus did this miracle?**
- He had just fed 5,000 people with the 5 loaves and 2 fish earlier that day. Then He went to pray alone, and later that night is when the disciples saw him walking on water.
- He did this miracle to show His power. With every miracle, Jesus reminds us that He can do the impossible and that we can trust Him!
- Remember, a miracle is something that only God can do, but sometimes He chooses to give power to other people so they can be a part of His miracles too!
- **Do you think a paper clip will sink or float?** (*Put the paper clip in the water and watch it sink.*)
- The paper clip is like us — humans (like you, me, and Peter) can’t walk on water, but God can do the impossible.
- Let’s pretend this footprint is Jesus’ footprint. When we place it on the water — look! It floats.
- Now watch what happens when we place the paper clip carefully on top of Jesus’ footprint. It floats too!
- You see, Peter could only continue walking on the water when He kept His focus on Jesus. When Peter let his attention move away from Jesus, he sank. But as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, Jesus was able to do the impossible through him.
- Just like the disciples in this story, **we can trust Jesus too.**
- And sometimes, if we keep our eyes on Jesus like Peter tried to do, we can even be part of one of God’s miracles, because **Jesus can do the impossible.**

SCRIPTURE | 2 Corinthians 4:18

- Now let’s look at a Bible verse about faith.
- The miracle in today’s Bible story was Jesus and Peter walking on water. But that miracle wouldn’t have happened for Peter if he would have stayed inside the boat. It took faith and courage for him to step outside the boat, and when he did, he got to experience an unbelievable miracle. He got to experience God’s power.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- There will be times in your life when you will have an opportunity to experience God’s power in your life, and you will have to choose to step out in faith and trust Him just like Peter.

OBJECT LESSON | Walking Water

- We’re talking about the unbelievable things Jesus does, so let’s watch this unbelievable trick to make water “walk” to a different cup.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set all three glasses in a row. Put food coloring in the end two cups, leaving the middle one with regular water. Cut the paper towel, fold in half and drape each piece coming out of the side cups to the middle one. While you’re waiting for the water to transfer to the middle cup, talk about some amazing things God has done in your own life.*
- What a cool trick, right? It seems pretty unbelievable, but the fact that Jesus walked on water is even more unbelievable, isn’t it?

PRAYER

- We're learning about how Peter had courage, faith and trust in Jesus when he got out of the boat.
Do you have courage, faith and trust for Jesus?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play quiet worship music and pass out paper and pens. Tell the kids to write a few things they can trust Jesus with this week. It can be anything that they are nervous or worried about or something that will take them out of their comfort zone. Pray with the kids that God would help them have faith to get out of the boat, so they can trust Him and see His power.*
- Remember, God can do things that seem impossible because He is all-powerful.

ACTIVITY | Watercolor Paintings

- Now that we've spent some time talking to Jesus, we're going to create something we can all take home to remind us to keep our eyes on Him and remind us of His power.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare each water color paper by taping a cross in the center of it. Give each child a paper and water color pencils. You could also use crayons, markers, or paint. Tell the kids to color all around the paper, even on top of the blue tape cross. If you choose to use water color pencils, tell the kids to color with the colored pencils first, then give them cups of water and paint brushes. Tell them to go over the colored pencil drawing with water and watch it turn into a pretty water color picture. When they are done, remove the tape and reveal a cross in the middle of the pretty picture.*
- Your pictures look amazing. We can take these pictures home to remind us to keep our eyes on Jesus and the cross, no matter what we're going through.

QUESTION | What's your favorite fairy tale?

- We've been talking about things that are unbelievable all month long, so let's all turn to someone and share our favorite fairy tale or make-believe story.
- **What made that story unbelievable?**
- **What is the coolest unbelievable (but true) miracle you've heard about from the Bible?**

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**— and that we can show kindness to those who are sick.
 - When we heard the story of Jesus calming the storm, we learned that **Jesus cares about us when we're afraid**— and that He will never leave us.
 - 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 that we can trust Him to keep His promises.
 - And today, when we heard the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water, we learned that **Jesus can do the impossible** — and that we can get out of our comfort zones to let God show us His power.

MEMORY VERSES | John 14:6; Jeremiah 29:11

● **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did Peter do that showed faith?** (He got out of the boat and walked on water.)
- **What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus?** (He started to sink.)
- **What does it mean to take your eyes off Jesus?**
- **When in your life do you need to trust Jesus more, and have faith?**
- **What can you do to "step out of the boat" and get outside your comfort zone to have more faith?**

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 17:20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What do you think it means to have faith as small as a mustard seed?**
- **When in your life have you need to have faith?**

ACTIVITY | Floating Paper clips

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask your group if they think you can get a paper clip to float on water. Put the paper clip in the cup of water and it will sink. Let the kids try to get it to float on their own (have towels ready for a mess). Take the paper clip and unfold it so it is in an "L" shape. Use the bottom of the "L" shape to gently lay another paper clip on the surface of the water. It will float on top of the water. Let the kids practice getting a paper clip to float on top of the water. Then say this . . .
- Peter was able to walk on water only by the power of God, and only when he had faith. We can have faith and trust Jesus too, because He is all powerful.

MEMORY VERSES | John 14:6; Jeremiah 29:11

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