

## LESSON 5

**JESUS WALKS ON WATER**

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is the Son of God

**SCRIPTURE:** [Matthew 14](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Jesus walks on water across the Sea of Galilee toward His disciples and calls Peter to join Him, showing that He really is the Son of God!

**WORD OF WONDER:** How great God is! We'll never completely understand Him. —[Job 36:26a](#)

## FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

**WHO?**

In this passage, the disciples refer to Jesus as the “Son of God” for the first time. In [Exodus 4:22](#), God refers to Israel as “my firstborn son” (NIV), but this title used for Jesus is more formal, designating His deity.

**WHAT?**

Once again, Jesus shows His power over a storm, this time by walking calmly on top of the water rather than speaking to tame the waters. For the disciples, this establishes their understanding of Jesus as the Son of God, who has power over the sea.

**WHERE?**

Jesus sent the disciples ahead on the boat, going to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. They were headed in the direction of Capernaum and Bethsaida and far from shore when the waves began pounding the boat. Jesus walked on the lake to meet them there.

**WHEN?**

Jesus walked on water immediately after He fed the 5,000, and just previous to that, His friend and relative John the Baptist was killed at the command of Herod Antipas. These events took place about midway through Jesus' three-year ministry.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

While it's common to focus on Peter's actions, the most amazing thing about this story is Jesus' walking on water. The disciples had witnessed Jesus heal people, cast out demons, and feed 5,000 people. But it was seeing Him walk on water that prompted them to conclude, “You really are the Son of God!” ([Matthew 14:33](#)).

# Curiosity

## Play Stations

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we'll be learning about today?**

### Play Station: Water Sensory Bin

**Set up:** Set out two large bins with some water in them. Provide cups, measuring spoons, bowls, toy boats, and toy fish to play with. Have a few towels available to dry the surfaces after the kids are finished with the play station.

**Play:** Let the kids have fun playing with the water and objects as they pour, scoop, and explore! See if they can think of some Bible stories that happened around water.

### Play Station: Follow the Footprints

**Set up:** Ahead of time, print several copies of the [Footprints Sheet](#) onto cardstock and cut out the pictures of footprints. Scatter them on the floor of your space to make a winding path. You can also set out markers for the kids to color the footprints.

**Play:** Invite the kids to take turns walking on the footprints. Then let them mix it up to make a different pattern and walk on them again.



**Leader Tip:** To make it more fun, set out a blue disposable tablecloth to be pretend water and let the kids put the footprints on it.

### Play Station: Jesus Walks on Water Coloring Sheet

**Set up:** Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the [coloring sheet](#) and set out coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a boat or water themed activity they would like to do.

# Faith

## Craft: Watercolor Paint

Provide a piece of cardstock and a paintbrush for each child, along with a few watercolor paint palettes and small cups of water for the kids to share. Cotton swabs can be used instead of paintbrushes if paintbrushes are not available.

**Today we learned about when Jesus walked on water. Let's use water and paint to create a beautiful picture. To begin, dip your paintbrush into the water. Then, put your paintbrush into the color you want to use and begin to paint your picture. Dip your paintbrush in water again when you want to use a new color. You can paint something from today's story, or you can paint something about Jesus' other miracles, such as feeding the people or healing the sick. Using water to paint can remind us that God is powerful and that He is the Son of God!**

Allow the kids to complete the craft and let the pictures dry before sending them home with the kids.

## Game: Walk on Water

Place a blue tablecloth or blanket on the floor to represent the Sea of Galilee. More than one tablecloth can be used for a larger group.

**You're going to walk across the pretend water to help remember today's story. One person will be chosen to pretend to be Peter and pretend to "sink" and sit down.**

After acting out the story, let the kids see if they can move across the water in different ways. Who can crawl across? Who can hop on one foot across the water? Who can frog jump on the water? Encourage the kids to have fun and think of creative ways to move on the water.

**Make It Inclusive:** If any of the kids have physical limitations, make sure they are included in some way. Encourage them to add sound effects for the wind and waves or give them space to move across the water in a way that they choose. Everyone can cheer them on!

# Identity

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## Prayer and Blessing

After the responding in worship time is finished, pray with them, thanking God for Jesus.

**God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that Jesus is all powerful. Thank You for Your Word that tells us all about the miracles Jesus performed. Thank You for showing us that He is Your Son! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** Jesus truly is the God of miracles! May you always remember that Jesus, the Son of God, loves you and is with you!