

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](#)).

Intro Activity: Sink or Float?

Ahead of time, fill a bin with some water. Gather a few items that can get wet—a few that will sink and a few that will float. You can also set out cups, measure spoons, bowls, and toy boats. Set out towels for cleanup.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! Today we're going to talk about a time when Jesus walked on water! Let's take a look at this bin of water and get curious!

Show the kids the bin with water. Invite them to feel the water. Give each kid an object and invite them to put it in the water to see whether it sinks or floats. Ask them what they see.

Talk about what the words mean. ***Sink* means that the item goes to the bottom of the bin. *Float* means that it stays on the top of the water. In our story today, we'll learn that Jesus walked on the water! He did not sink. This shows us that He is the Son of God because He is the only one who can do that. If we tried to walk on water, we *would* sink!** Be sure to place the water out of reach after this activity. (You may want to use this same bin of water for the Water Sensory Bin activity later in the lesson.)

Activity: Footprints in the Water

In God's big story today, we'll hear about an amazing miracle Jesus did! Jesus can heal people, feed lots of people, and walk on water! Jesus does amazing things! Let's make a craft to remind us of the miracle of Jesus walking on water.

How do you walk? Allow kids to respond. **That's right! We walk with our feet! Let's trace your feet on this blue paper that looks like water. It will remind us that Jesus walked on water!**

Help each kid step on the blue paper and trace her feet. You could leave socks and shoes on or remove them. After tracing, ask each kid: **What did Jesus do?** Assist the kids with responding, "Walked on water!"

You can write on each paper "Jesus walked on water! He is the Son of God!" and allow the kids to take the sheets home.

Leader Tip: Invite the kids walk across the room in fun ways such as tiptoeing, zooming, hopping, etc.

Our Wonder Truth today is: JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS IS—*Point to left palm then point to right palm (sign language for Jesus).*

THE SON—*Cross arms as if you're holding a baby and rock arms side to side.*

OF GOD—*Point up.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God in prayer.

God, thank You for Jesus. 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!

Activity: Water Sensory Bin

Set out one or two bins with a small amount of water in each. Provide plastic cups, measuring spoons, bowls, toy sailboats, and toy fish. Have a few towels available to dry the surfaces after the kids are finished. Let them have fun playing with the water and objects as they pour, scoop, and explore.

Today we learned about a time when Jesus walked on water! It was a miracle! Jesus' walking on water shows us that He is powerful, and He is the Son of God! Be sure to place the water out of reach after this activity.

Make It Inclusive: Kids with sensory issues may not want to put their hands in water. Always offer the choice to participate by watching. Children can also play with the toy sailboats and toy fish on a table or the floor.