

LESSON 4

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

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: My God, Always With Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Son of God

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

It was irrational. The disciples had no mental framework for what they were seeing. Yet there He was—Jesus, walking atop the wind-tossed waters. It's no wonder they assumed the figure before them was a ghost. It's no wonder they were terrified.

Read Matthew 14:22–36 slowly. What do you notice about Jesus? When do you think the disciples became fearful? Would you have become fearful when you spotted someone walking on the water, or would you have also felt fear—the kind that mingles with awe and leaves you without words—as Jesus stepped into the boat and the wind died down?

Until this point, the disciples had no mental framework for understanding the fullness of who Jesus is. So, when they watched Him walk calmly on the waves, they were terrified. And the only rational conclusion they could draw was that this Jesus truly must be the Son of God.

Spend a few minutes quietly reflecting on Jesus. Imagine His face looking at you as He steps into the boat. What is it about Jesus that leaves you in awe? What is it about Jesus that makes you say with His disciples, “Truly you are the Son of God” (Matthew 14:33 NIV)?

—Sharron Jackson

Ministry Volunteer and Curriculum Developer

Wonder Ink Development Team

DID YOU KNOW?

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).

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Son of God

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: You may remember our friend Tac, the curious cat. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you. Are you ready?

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! I've been wondering ... how do some things float in water and other things sink?

Leader: Oh, that's a great question! I did an experiment once to find out about things that float and things that sink. Kids, can you tell Tac what things usually are able to float?

(Allow kids to list the things that float.)

Leader: Yes, that's correct! And can you tell Tac what kind of things sink? (Allow kids to list the things that sink.)

Tac the Cat: What? That's so neat! I wonder how that happens! Why do some things float but other things sink?

Leader: Well, I learned in science that whether an object floats or sinks in water depends on how dense, or compact, its particles are. An object will sink in water if it is made up of particles that are more tightly packed together than the particles in water. An object that is less dense than water will float.

Tac the Cat: Oh wow! That's so interesting.

is made up of particles that are more tightly packed together than the particles in water. An object that is less dense than water will float.

Tac the Cat: Oh wow! That's so interesting.

Leader: I know! God's creation is amazing! Tac, did you know that our story from the Bible today is about a time when Jesus was out on water during a storm?

Tac the Cat: No way! What happened?

Leader: We'll learn about how Jesus walked on the water! He didn't sink! He can walk on water because He is the Son of God!

Tac the Cat: Now that's a miracle!

Leader: It sure is, Tac! A *miracle* is a great sign that God is at work. We'll find out even more about this when we hear God's big story today.

Tac the Cat: That sounds great! Well, I've got more exploring and thinking to do. I personally don't like water because I'm a cat, but I think I'm going to go throw some things in a bathtub of water and see what floats.

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What would you like to put in water to see if it floats or sinks? Allow the kids to respond and let them guess whether it would float or sink. **Did you ever stop to think about how God created all of these things and knows everything about them?** Allow the kids to respond. **He can use His creation to do miracles that show us that Jesus is His Son.**

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD**. Today we'll discover that Jesus is the Son of God!

Declaring God's Wonder

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

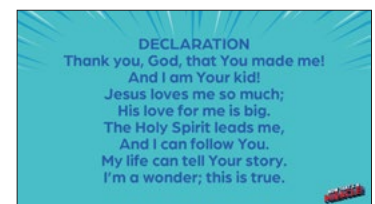
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for loving us and for always being with us. Please show us Your power today. We invite Your Holy Spirit to help us understand Your Word better so we can recognize that Jesus is Your Son. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how miraculous and powerful our God is and how Jesus is the Son of God. Let's sing about Jesus together!

Play [My God, Always With Me](#) worship videos and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible. That's the first book of the New Testament. Today we are learning about a powerful moment when Jesus did something only He could do. He walked on the water and helped His friends when they were afraid in the middle of a storm. As you watch, think about what Peter did when he kept his eyes on Jesus and what changed when he looked at the waves. How can trusting Jesus help us when we feel scared too?

Play the [Gods Big Story Video](#).

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

RESOURCES: Story Sound Effects cues

Ahead of time, print the Story Sound Effects cues. Select 5 volunteers and hand each one a cue. When you point to them, they will make the sound of their sound effect. Conduct a practice round so they know what their sound is. You will keep the "applause" sign and the rest of the kids will clap when you hold up the "Applause" sign. Older preschoolers or even teen volunteers will be best for this activity.

Jesus traveled around teaching people about God's kingdom. (Cue the Footsteps Walking sound.)

Jesus had spent a long day helping people and healing people who were sick. (Cue the Coughing sound.)

After Jesus had fed the large crowd, he sent them home. Jesus told His disciples—His closest followers—to take a boat across a big lake called the Sea of Galilee. Then He climbed up a mountain to be alone. He prayed while it got later and later at night. (Cue the Crickets sound.)

The disciples' boat was in the water, far away from the shore. (Cue the Water splash sound.) **It was windy out on the lake, and big waves crashed into the side of the boat.** (Cue the Wind and Waves sound.)

Just before morning, Jesus went to be with the disciples. But He did not use a boat. Jesus walked on the water to get to their boat! (Cue the Water Splashes sound.) **When the disciples saw Him walking in the middle of the lake, they were really scared. They had never seen anything like that before! At first, the disciples thought it was a ghost. They cried out!** (Cue the Scared sound.) **Right away, Jesus let them know who He was. He said, "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid"** (Matthew 14:27).

One of the disciples was Peter. Peter wanted to make sure it really was Jesus. He asked for Jesus to call him onto the lake with Jesus. Then Peter could be sure that it really was Jesus (and that Jesus really was walking on water!).

"Come," Jesus told him. Peter stepped out of the boat and onto the water. (Cue the Water Splashes sound.) **He began to walk toward Jesus. Then the wind got strong.** (Cue the Wind sound.) **Peter saw that and got scared. Peter started to sink. "Lord! Save me!" he cried out** (Matthew 14:30).

Jesus took Peter's hand and saved him. When he was afraid of the wind and waves, Peter did not trust Jesus as much. "Why did you doubt me?" Jesus asked him (Matthew 14:31). (Cue the Wind sound.) **Then Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat, and the wind stopped.** (Cue the Water sound.)

The disciples in the boat were amazed. They could hardly believe what they saw. They worshiped Jesus saying, "You really are the Son of God!" (Matthew 14:33).

When Jesus and His disciples got to the other side of the lake, they got to a place called Gennesaret (GEN-uh-sar-et). The people there recognized Jesus and told others that He was there. Big crowds of people came. People brought their sick friends to Jesus. (Cue the Coughing sound.) **And again, Jesus healed the sick.**

Over and over, Jesus did things that seemed impossible! (Cue the Applause sound.) **Each miracle is an amazing sign that God is at work. He fed large crowds of people. He healed sick people. He walked on water. Each amazing thing shows Jesus' power. Jesus can do anything. He is powerful because of who He is. Jesus is the Son of God.**

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

It's incredible that Peter walked toward Jesus on the water, but the most amazing thing about this story is that Jesus walked on water! The disciples had witnessed Jesus do really cool miracles that seemed impossible. But it was seeing Him walk on water that prompted them to say, "You really are the Son of God!" (Matthew 14:33).

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!