

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

Intro Activity: Sink or Float?

Activity: Footprints in the Water

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Water Sensory Bin

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Intro Activity: Sink or Float?

SUPPLIES: bin with water, various small items that can get wet (a few that will sink, a few that will float), cups, measuring spoons, bowls, toy boats, towels

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

SUPPLIES: blue construction paper (1 sheet per kid), markers

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.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Now That's a Miracle! Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

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 songs from the [Now That's a Miracle! Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jesus Walks on Water God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus. Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, or read the story from the Bible, or use the Script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

To make the story more interactive, make your own sound effects. Before you begin sharing the story, tell the kids to listen for the sounds you'll make and see if they can make the same sounds too. Suggested sounds are in parentheses through the storytelling.

Jesus's friends were in a boat in the sea. It was windy and waves crashed against the boat.
(Woosh, whoosh, crash!)

When it was still nighttime, Jesus went to join the disciples. He didn't swim to their boat. He didn't take His own boat. He walked to them. On the water! When they saw Him walking on the water, they were afraid! The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost. Maybe they let out a scared cry!
(Ahhh!)

Jesus spoke to them, "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid." Peter wondered whether it really was Jesus, so he asked for Jesus to call him onto the water.

"Come," Jesus told him. So, Peter stepped over the side of the boat and onto the water. (Splash, splash.) **He began to walk toward Jesus, but the wind blew harder, and Peter got scared. Peter started to sink.** (Oh, no!)

"Lord! Save me!" he cried out. Immediately, Jesus grabbed Peter's hand and saved him.

"Why did you doubt Me?" Jesus asked Peter. Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat and the wind stopped. (Whoosh ... silence!)

Everyone in the boat was surprised at what they had seen. They worshiped Jesus by saying, "You really are the Son of God!"

When Jesus and His disciples got to the land, large crowds gathered again, and Jesus healed more people. Jesus feeds large crowds, heals sick people, and walks on water! All the amazing things Jesus does show His power. Jesus is the Son of God.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Now That's a Miracle! Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#)

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Now That's a Miracle! series is Job 36:26a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

WORD OF WONDER

How great God is! We'll never completely understand Him.

—Job 36:26a

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HOW GREAT**—Put one arm straight up for each word.
- **GOD IS!**—Point up.
- **WE'LL NEVER**—Cross arms back and forth in front of you.
- **COMPLETELY**—Bring both arms down from above you to your sides.
- **UNDERSTAND**—Point to your head with both hands.
- **HIM.**—Point up.
- **JOB 36:26a**—Hold your hands together in front of you, palms open, as if opening a book.

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

SUPPLIES: bins with a small amount of water (1–2), plastic cups, measuring spoons, bowls, toy sailboats, toy fish, towels

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.