

Elementary

Small Group

Day 2



Today's Bible Story

Jesus walks on water
Matthew 14:22-33

Bottom Line

Jesus helps us
trust Him.

Memory Verse

John 14:6 (NirV): "Jesus
answered, 'I am the way and
the truth and the life. No one
comes to the Father except
through me.'"

Small Group Leader Guide Day 2

Kingdom Quest VBS

Jesus Walks on Water

Today's Bible Story

Jesus walks on water
Matthew 14:22-33

Bottom Line

Jesus helps us trust Him.

Key Question

Why can I trust Jesus?

Theme

FAITH

Preparing for the Day

Set up the room:

- Have Kingdom Quest Logs separated and ready to give Crew leaders as they enter.
- Have blue fabric ready and an assistant who knows their cues during Opening Activity and Bible Story Review.

Tips for leaders:

- Reinforce the Bottom Line: **Jesus helps us trust Him.** Use the phrase often.
- Keep it active and visual. Use gameboard or quest language and actions when possible. Get creative!
- Use short call and repeat phrases to maintain energy:
 - **Leader:** "We're on a quest.."
 - **Kids repeat:** "For God's Kingdom!"

Or

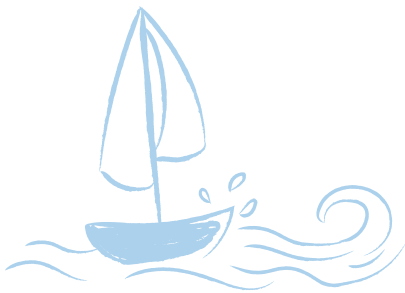
Leader: Kingdom ready!

Kids: Hands still, eyes on You!

- Use movement: Have kids stand for answers, use hand motions, repeat key words and phrases.
- Give short, specific choices rather than open questions.
- Use redirection and praise bravery/positive behavior.
- Use Crew Leaders and Assistant Leaders.
 - Give clear instructions to the other leaders in the room, too! They won't know how to help unless you tell them.

Kingdom Quest Logs:

- Each kid will have a daily Kingdom Quest Log.
- The Log has the Lesson Recap, Memory Verse, space for prayer/reflection, and a back page with information for parents.
- There is a version for younger and older kids.
- Encourage kids to show their parents their Logs each day and challenge them to retell the story.
- Encourage kids to read the devotion on the last page with their parents and bring it back for a sticker.



What You Need

- Themed stickers/tattoos to give kids who brought back their KQ Log
- Blue fabric, or plastic tablecloth (to represent water)
- One stepping stone prop (foam square, cardboard tile, or taped square)
- Optional soft background wind or ocean sound
- **Day 2 Bottom Line Poster (1/station)**

Welcome (1-2 minutes)

Welcome, Quest Crew! I'm [name], your Crew Guide for the week.

This week we are on a Kingdom Quest to discover God's Kingdom. Yesterday, we learned that **Jesus invites us to follow Him**. Point to Day 1 Bottom Line Poster. Can you repeat that with me? Repeat Day 1 Bottom Line together. Today we are learning: **Jesus helps us trust Him!** Repeat it with me: **Jesus helps us trust Him!**

Opening Activity (1-3 minutes)

The Unsteady Path

How You Prepare

- Lay the blue fabric across the floor in front of the group.
- Place the stepping stone at the edge of the "water."
- Leader stands on the stone. Assistant quietly positions themselves near the fabric.

What You Do

Everyone watch right here for just a moment.

Step fully onto the stone.

Right now, I'm standing on something solid. Imagine this is the only solid place to stand.

Assistant gently ripples the fabric.

But look around me.

Pause.

It doesn't feel calm. It doesn't feel easy. Everything feels a little shaky... unknown... a little scary.

Assistant ripples the water a little more.

Have you ever felt scared when things suddenly felt out of control? Or nervous because you didn't know what was going to happen next?

Assistant ripples the water even more. Start to rock around like you are unsteady.

Or worried because you weren't sure if you were safe?

Pause.

This is what trusting can feel like. Being in the middle of something scary... and deciding who you're going to listen to.



What You Need

- Blue fabric or table cloth (from opening activity)
- toy boat
- fan (the louder the better)
- table

Look down at the water, then back up. Step off the stone. Assistant stops rippling.

In today's story, the disciples were surrounded by wind and waves.
Pause.

And one of them stepped out when he didn't feel safe at all.

Step confidently on the stone.

Jesus didn't just tell them to trust harder. He helped them trust Him.
That's what we are talking about today – Jesus helps us trust Him!

Bible Story Review (3–5 minutes)

How You Prepare

- Place props where they are easy to reach.
- Put the blue fabric or table cloth on the table with the boat on top.
- Position the fan so it will blow toward the boat.

What You Do

- Retell today's story in a fun, dynamic way.

What You Say

Before we talk about today's story, let's do our Kingdom Quest Chant together. We'll do this each day! Repeat after me.

Use hand motions to add more engagement to this chant.

Jesus invites us to follow Him—I follow His light! **(Kids repeat)**

Called on a quest to do what's right! **(Kids repeat)**

Step by step, I trust and obey! **(Kids repeat)**

His Kingdom grows in me each day! **(Kids repeat)**

Everyone stay seated and use your imagination with me.

Picture a long day. Jesus has been teaching and helping people.

Everyone was tired.

Move the boat slightly forward.

Jesus sends His disciples ahead in a boat. He stays behind to pray.
Assistant turns fan on.

Leader Tip:

Show emotion as you tell the story. Use voice inflection, facial expressions, and movement to keep kids engaged.

Raise your voice to shout over the sound of the fan.

**As the disciples row, the wind grows stronger.
The waves started to rise. This was not a calm lake. This was a storm they could not control.**

How do you think they felt?

For younger kids:

Show me your scared or worried face.

For older kids:

**Think about what they might be saying to each other in the boat.
Call on a couple volunteers to answer.**

---all---

**Then they see something.
Move the boat slightly.**

**Someone is coming toward them on the water.
At first, they are afraid. Their eyes tell them something impossible is happening.**

Hold your hands in circles over your eyes like binoculars. Pretend like you're trying to see who is coming on the water.

But then they recognize Jesus!

Peter speaks up and says something unexpected. He does not ask for the storm to stop...

He asks to come to Jesus.

**And Jesus invites him. Peter steps out of the boat.
For a moment, Peter is not thinking about the wind.
Assistant turns off fan.**

He is only thinking about Jesus.

**But then Peter notices the storm again.
Assistant turns the fan back on.**

The wind feels loud. The waves feel close. Fear grows. Trust feels harder. And Peter begins to sink.

What You Need

- Quest Log (younger and older) 1/kid
- coloring utensils
- pencils
- stickers
- Small Group Spotify Playlist

Right away, Jesus reaches out to Peter.

Pause. Assistant turns off fan.

Jesus did not need Peter to have perfect faith.

He simply wanted Peter to trust Him.

Peter stepped onto real water. That took faith. We may not face waves like that. But we all face moments that feel just as big.

Pause.

Fear.

Uncertainty.

Decisions that feel scary.

Pause.

When Peter looked at Jesus, he walked.

When he focused on the storm, he sank.

Jesus sees us in our storms.

Jesus is stronger than what scares us.

And Jesus helps us trust Him.

Prayer & Reflection (3-5 minutes)

How You Prepare

- Put Quest Logs and supplies at each seat.
- Play background music.

What You Do

- Instruct kids to write their names in their book.
- Read the prompts and guide the kids through their log.
- Give them several minutes to quietly write a prayer.
- Close in prayer together.

What You Say

This is your Kingdom Quest Log. Each day, we are documenting our journey! Today, we learned about how Peter trusted Jesus. And just like Peter: Jesus is with you! Just like He reached out to Peter, He reaches for you too, friends. When you remember Jesus is close, you can take that next step even if it's scary.

What You Need

- "Slide Base" Activity Page (1/kid)
- "Slide Left and Right" Activity Page (1/ every 2 kids)
- Coloring supplies
- Stickers, watercolor paint, washy tape

Dear God, Thank You for sending Jesus. pause.
Thank You that even when life feels shaky, Jesus is with us. pause.
Help us keep our eyes on You even when we feel afraid. pause.
Remind us that You're close and want to help! pause.
We love You, God! pause.
We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen!

Craft (7-10 minutes)

Jesus Reaches Us

How You Prepare

- Cut out Jesus and Peter strips from the "Slide Left and Right" Activity page.
- Cut the two slits along the dotted lines on the "Slide Base" Activity page.
- Group together so each kid has one "Slide Left and Right" page, one Jesus, and one Peter strip.

What You Do

- Kids will color/decorate the Slide base, and Peter and Jesus strips first.
- Then, lead the kids in assembling the craft:
 - Direct them to slide the tab end of the Jesus picture through the slit in the paper from the left side.
 - Direct them to slide the tab of the Peter picture through the slit in the paper from the right side.
 - Then, show them how to flip over their paper and fold on the dotted lines. This prevents the papers from sliding out.
- Demonstrate how to move Jesus and Peter closer to each other!

What You Say

Your craft shows something amazing ... watch this! When you slide the pieces, Peter and Jesus move closer together demonstrate. It's like they're meeting in the middle of the storm!

In our Bible story today, the disciples were stuck in a boat during a big storm. But Jesus didn't stay far away, He walked on the water to be with them. Move your Jesus piece toward the boat just like Jesus walked toward His friends. Pause.

Peter was brave and stepped out of the boat. He actually walked on water, too! But then, he got distracted by the wind and waves and started to sink. Yikes! Slide your Peter piece toward Jesus. Pause.

Even though Peter got scared, Jesus didn't let him drown. Do you remember what He did? That's right! Jesus reached out and saved him. Because Jesus was always with Peter through the storm. Through the sinking, through it all.

And guess what? That's true for YOU, too! If you've chosen to follow Jesus, you can trust that Jesus is always with you. When you're scared, excited, when you feel all kinds of big emotions! Jesus is **STILL** with you. His love never stops. Say it with me: **Jesus helps us trust Him.**

Walk around during the activity and offer suggestions or encourage kids as they answer.

1. **What do you think it was like for the disciples to see Jesus walking on the water?**
2. **Why do you think Peter wanted to step out of the boat and walk toward Jesus?**
3. **What happened when Peter started looking at the waves instead of Jesus?**
4. **How do you think Peter felt when Jesus reached out and grabbed him?**
5. **What does this story show us about how Jesus helps us when we are scared?**