



Bible Point

Jesus can do anything.

Bible Verse

“With God everything is possible” (Matthew 19:26b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that Jesus can do anything,
 - experience the importance of keeping their eyes focused on Jesus,
 - teach Pockets to look where she’s going, and
 - brainstorm about different ways to follow Jesus.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Peter and Jesus walk on water.

**Matthew
14:22-33**



After hearing of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus sought solitude but was followed by throngs of people. He took pity on them, healing the sick and feeding the crowd. Evening was approaching when Jesus sent his disciples toward the other side of the Sea of Galilee by boat. He then dismissed the crowd and finally retired, alone, to pray. He apparently spent many hours in prayer because he didn’t approach the disciples’ boat until “the fourth watch” (Matthew 14:25), which would have been about 3 a.m.

The disciples’ terror at seeing a figure walking on the water is certainly understandable. They knew that no ordinary human could do such a thing, so they assumed the figure must be a ghost. Their cries of fear prompted Jesus’ compassionate response, for he always responded compassionately to people in need.

Hearing Jesus’ voice, impetuous Peter had a crazy idea: What if Jesus would make it possible for him to walk on the water as Jesus was doing? So he voiced his suggestion to Jesus, and Jesus took him up on it. Peter’s success and then his failure hinged on his focus. As he concentrated on Jesus, he walked on water. But when he focused on the wind and waves, he almost drowned.

After pulling Peter from the waves, Jesus said, “You don’t have much faith...why did you doubt me?” (Matthew 14:31). Some consider this a rebuke. However, it was more likely a gentle encouragement to Peter to have even more faith. After all, Peter was the only one of the disciples who had enough faith to step out on the water in the first place!









Prayer

- Read Matthew 17:20.
- How would you measure your own faith?
- Pray: Dear Lord, increase my faith in you. I need to trust you with this area of my life...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Perfect Present Name Tags" (p. 22), markers, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Helping Hands Golf —Help a friend "golf," and learn that Jesus helped his friend Peter.	Masking tape, tennis balls, blindfolds, launchers from Lesson 6	
	Option 2: Life Jackets —Design paper-bag life jackets, and learn that Jesus protects us.	Paper grocery sacks, scissors, hole punch, yarn, crayons	
	Option 3: Up 'n' Down in the Water —Help Peter move up and down in the waves.	Photocopies of "Up 'n' Down in the Water" (p. 128), crayons, scissors, glue sticks, white paper	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Experience what it's like to walk on a masking-tape line with their eyes closed.	Masking tape	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Review Jesus' miracles, and listen to an exciting story from Matthew 14:22-33.	CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Make a reminder that Jesus can do anything.	Construction paper, pencils, 3-inch circle shapes, 10-inch length of ribbon per child, tape, scissors	
Closing 	Balancing Act —Teach Pockets that it's good to keep our eyes on Jesus.	Bandage	
	Ways to Follow —Share ways to keep their eyes on Jesus.	Bible	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Perfect Present Name Tags” (p. 22), markers, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “How did Jesus take care of you last week?” and “What were some things that you gave to others?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► *Jesus can do anything.***
- Hand out the present name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach name tags to their clothing. If any of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have children make new name tags using the photocopyable patterns.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



BIBLE POINT

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and to direct children’s conversations toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Were you ever so scared that you didn’t know what to do?” or “Who helps you when you get into trouble?”

■ Option 1: Helping Hands Golf

SUPPLIES: masking tape, tennis balls, blindfolds, launchers from Lesson 6



Make a 2-foot masking tape circle at one end of the room as the hole for your golf game. Have children form pairs, and give each pair a tennis ball and a *chopstick* launcher from Lesson 6—now a *chopstick* golf club. Blindfold one partner, and give that child the straw. Explain that the goal is to “golf” the ball into the “hole” at the other end of the room. The sighted partner must give verbal clues to help the other partner succeed. Make sure both partners get a turn to golf.

As children play, talk about how important it is to help our friends. Tell children that today they’ll learn how Jesus helped his friend Peter.



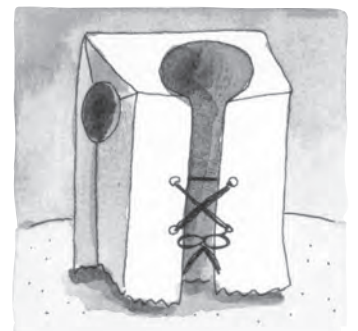
You can make more “golf clubs” by taping index cards to one end of the chopsticks.

■ Option 2: Life Jackets

SUPPLIES: paper grocery sacks, scissors, hole punch, yarn or string, crayons



Before class, cut two 6-inch lengths of yarn or string for each child. Set out paper grocery sacks, scissors, a hole punch, and the lengths of yarn. Have each child cut a sack from top to bottom down the center and then cut a neck opening on the top of the sack and an armhole on each side of the sack. Encourage children to help each other.





BIBLE POINT

Demonstrate how to use the hole punch to punch two holes on each side of the front of a life jacket. Hand each child two pieces of yarn or string for tying the jacket closed. Have children use crayons and the *boat stamp* to decorate their life jackets. As they work to finish and put on their life jackets, circulate and ask such questions as “When do we use life jackets?” and “What can life jackets do for you?” Point out that Jesus is like a life jacket—he helps us and saves us from fears and worries. Remind children that ► Jesus can do anything.



Option 3: Up 'n' Down in the Water

SUPPLIES: photocopies of “Up 'n' Down in the Water” (p. 128), crayons, scissors, glue sticks, white paper

Hand each child a photocopy of “Up 'n' Down in the Water.” Place scissors, crayons, white paper, and glue sticks on a table. Have children color the handout and then carefully cut along the outline of the water, Jesus, and Peter. Put glue on the back of the handout's edges and on the back of Jesus; then glue the handout to a sheet of paper. Demonstrate to children how to glue Jesus and the water but *not* to glue Peter. Fold on the dotted lines, and tuck Peter down into the waves. Let children pull Peter up and down in the water. As they work, ask children questions such as “Do you think this man will sink or float if he tries to walk on the water? Why?” and “Who's the man in the picture who's walking on the water?” Tell children they'll hear a story today about an amazing miracle Jesus performed in the middle of the sea.



teacher tips

Children enjoy making crafts with action parts. For extra color and fun, have children use various shades of blue construction paper or tissue paper to add layers to the waves. Simply cut additional wavy strips of blue paper, and staple them to both sides of the photocopied picture.

After everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in the class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



teacher tips

At this stage in their mental development, 5- and 6-year-olds can listen to and create stories, can distinguish between real and pretend, and need simple directions—they understand one step at a time.



SING

**We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys,
And put them all away.**

**There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ *Setting the Stage*

SUPPLIES: *masking tape*

Tell the children that you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children should stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Before class, place several zigzag lines of masking tape on the floor. Be sure they're at least 4 feet long.

Tell children to each find a friend and to stand together by one of the masking tape lines. Say: **Choose which of you will go first. Hold your head up, close your eyes, and walk on your tape line without peeking. The rest of the group can watch to see if it's hard for you to stay on the line. Then give your partner a turn.** Continue until each child has had a chance to walk on a line.

Ask: • **Why was it hard to stay on the line?** (My eyes were closed; I couldn't see where I was going.)

• **How can you make sure you stay on the tape as you walk?** (Keep your eyes open; look at the line.)

Say: **This time we'll walk the line with our eyes open and see if it's easier to stay on the tape.** Continue until every child has had a turn walking on the tape with his or her eyes open.

Ask: • **Was it easier this time? Explain.** (Yes, because my eyes were open; yes, because I could see the line.)

Say: **If we don't pay attention to what we're doing, we can end up in trouble. But Jesus is always there to help us, and if we keep paying attention to him, we will be fine. Our Bible story today is about someone who stopped paying attention to Jesus and got into some very deep water!**

■ *Bible Song and Prayer Time*

SUPPLIES: *Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box*



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch strips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and stamp the *boat stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **Matthew 14:22-33** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it's time to choose someone to be the Bible person. The Bible person will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story. Each of you will get a chance to be the Bible person. Before I choose today's Bible person, let's sing our Bible song. As we sing, I'll hand out surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, hand out the folded surprise cards.



SING

Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.

(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the boat stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Lead the class in clapping for the Bible person, cheering, and making fun applause sound effects by slapping your thighs with your palms. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place, and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week, we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ► Jesus can do anything.**

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn to keep our eyes on Jesus. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, please help me keep my eyes on Jesus."

Have a child pass around the basket or box. After your helper has collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and for all the stories in it. Teach us today that ► Jesus can do anything. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Choose children to be the surprise-card collector, the Bible replacer (to put the Bible away), and the cheerleader. Just be sure to keep track of who fills your roles each week so each child gets a chance to feel special.



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



Hold up a *chopstick*. Say: **This chopstick is a great friend when I have an itchy back.** Demonstrate how to use the stick like a back scratcher; then distribute *chopsticks*, and let children try.

Sometimes our arms aren't long enough to reach that itchy spot. We need something or someone to help us. Jesus helps us when we have to do something hard.

Bring out the *Bible Big Book: Jesus' Miracles*, and open it to page 1. Say: **We've been learning that ► Jesus can do anything. We've been hearing about some of the amazing miracles Jesus performed to show God's power.**

Jesus' miracles helped people, just as the chopsticks helped us. Let's see how well you remember our stories. Hold up your stick. I'll show you a picture from a Bible story. If you think you know who one of the people in the picture is and what he or she did in the story, put your chopstick in the air. If I call on you, use your stick to point to that character and tell about him or her.

Show each page of the *Bible Big Book* through page 7. The characters include Mary, Jesus, a servant, and a few disciples (p. 1); the disciples and Jesus (pp. 2-3); Jesus and



BIBLE POINT ►

the disciples (p. 4); Jesus, Andrew, Philip, the little boy, and the crowd of 5,000 (p. 5); and Jesus, the 12 disciples, and the crowd (pp. 6-7).

Collect the *chopstickss*, and say: **Our Bible story today comes from the book of Matthew. The Bible Big Book shows us pictures of the Bible account.**

Open the *Bible Big Book* to page 8.

Say: **The Bible tells us about another of Jesus' miracles. After Jesus fed the 5,000 people, he went with his disciples to the Sea of Galilee. Jesus told the disciples to go ahead in the boat. He wanted to send the crowds home and then stay on shore to pray and have a quiet time with God.**

Now, the Sea of Galilee had many sudden windstorms. The wind blew the sea into big waves that could tip over fishing boats. The disciples knew how to fish and sail their boat, but the storms at sea were always scary.

As our Bible story is being told, listen for two things: what Jesus did that was amazing and why Peter began to sink.

Play the CD. Listen to "Jesus' Miracles, Part 2" (track 11) while showing page 8 of the *Bible Big Book*. When the story is over, close the book and turn off the CD player.

Ask: • **What amazing miracle did Jesus perform?** (He walked on water.)

• **Why did Peter start to sink?** (He looked away from Jesus; he saw the wind and waves; he was afraid.)

• **What did Peter do when he was afraid?** (He called to Jesus; he asked Jesus for help.)

• **Who answered Peter's call, and how did he help Peter?** (Jesus; he helped Peter into the boat.)

Say: **Peter walked on the water as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. But the moment he looked away, Peter began to sink. It's important to know that we need to keep our eyes on Jesus. If we do get into trouble, remember that ► Jesus can do anything to help us. Let's do a science experiment to help us remember the story of how Jesus walked on water and how he helped Peter stay afloat.**

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: construction paper, pencils, 3-inch circle shapes, scissors, 10-inch length of ribbon for each child, tape



Gather children in your work area. Show them how to trace a 3-inch circle shape on construction paper to make circles. Let each child trace and cut out three circles.

Say: **Peter learned an important lesson in today's Bible story.**

Ask: • **What did Peter learn?** (That if he was in trouble, he should ask Jesus for help; that Jesus could save him.)

• **How did Peter learn this lesson?** (He saw that Jesus could walk on water; when Peter started to sink, Jesus rescued him.)

Say: **Peter learned that when you are in trouble, you should ask Jesus to help you! ► Jesus can do anything! I wonder what Peter's face looked like when he started to sink in the water. Show me that face.** Let kids make faces. **Yes, that's right! I think maybe Peter looked surprised or scared.** Hold up



Plastic lids from frozen juice concentrate cans work well for little hands to hold and trace around.

the *face stamp*. **Stamp this face on one of your circles and then draw a mouth on the face. Make the mouth look the way you think Peter's face looked.**

Let children take turns using the *face stamp*. Meanwhile, pass around the *arrow stamp* and the *praying hands stamp* to be used on their two remaining circles. As the children are taking turns with the stamps, give each child a strip of ribbon. Have children lay their ribbons flat and then tape the circle with the face stamp print to the ribbon about an inch from the bottom.

Ask: • **What did Peter do when he began to sink?** (He shouted for help; he looked at Jesus real fast.)

• **What did Jesus do when Peter called for help?** (Jesus held out his hand; Jesus helped Peter into the boat.)

Hold up a circle with the hands stamped on it. Say: **As soon as Peter called for help, Jesus reached out and grabbed him. Peter didn't sink after all. This hand reminds me that Jesus reached out his hand to help Peter.**

Direct children to tape their hand circles about an inch from the top of their ribbons. Then hold up the circle with the arrow stamped on it, and say: **Arrows always point in one direction.**

Ask: • **Which way is better for the arrow to point, toward Peter or toward Jesus?** (Toward Jesus.)

• **Why is it better for the arrow to point toward Jesus?** (Because Jesus is more important; because Jesus can help; because Jesus can do anything.)

Help children tape their arrow circles to the center of the ribbon between the other two circles, with the arrow pointing upward. Then say: **Peter forgot that ► Jesus can do anything! But once Peter remembered this, he shouted to Jesus to help him—and Jesus did! When we're in trouble and need some help, we can ask Jesus to help us, too—and he will. Jesus loves us, and no problem is too big for him to handle. It's great to know that ► Jesus can do anything. Let's see if Pockets knows this!**



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►



Closing

■ *Balancing Act*

SUPPLIES: bandage

Before this activity, put a bandage on Pockets' head. Have children sit in a circle; then bring out Pockets the Kangaroo. Go through the following script. After you finish, put Pockets away and out of sight.



- **Teacher:** (*Patting Pockets' head*) Hi, Pockets. What's new?
- **Pockets:** (*Rubbing her head slightly*) Ooh, I bumped my head yesterday.
- **Teacher:** I see your bandage now. How did you bump your head, Pockets?
- **Pockets:** I was just walking on top of a fence...with my eyes closed.
- **Teacher:** Why did you have your eyes closed? That's a pretty dangerous thing to do, Pockets!

Pockets: Well, I started out with my eyes open and was doing fine, so I thought it would be fun to try walking with my eyes closed. But it wasn't much fun at all!

Teacher: We've been learning today that it's important to keep our eyes open—especially when we follow Jesus. Children, can you tell Pockets about the time Peter took his eyes off Jesus? (*Give children a chance to share the Bible story with Pockets.*) You see, Pockets, Jesus wants us to trust him because ► Jesus can do anything. When we keep our eyes on Jesus and trust him, he'll keep us safe.

Pockets: I'm glad you told me about Peter and the waves and that Jesus can do anything! I sure know there's something I can't do—walk on a fence with my eyes closed! (*Giggles.*) Thanks, friends, and remember, keep your eyes on Jesus! 'Bye.

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Pre-K & K granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



■ Ways to Follow

SUPPLIES: Bible

Open your Bible to Matthew 19:26, and show children the verse. Say: **Matthew 19:26 says, ►“With God everything is possible.” That means that nothing is too hard for God. Let's say this verse and use our motions to help us remember the words.** Lead children in saying **Matthew 19:26b** with these motions:

With God (*point up*)

everything (*spread both hands away from self in a sweeping motion*)

is possible (*give a two-thumbs-up signal*).

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**



Have children get into groups of two or three. Say: **We've been talking about keeping our eyes on Jesus so we can follow him better. Jesus helps us do this in lots of different ways. Have your group think of two ways to follow Jesus. When I clap my hands, join with another group, and share your group's ideas by saying, “I can keep my eyes on Jesus by praying, reading the Bible, helping others,” or some other way you may think of.**

When children have shared and joined another group, say: **Isn't it wonderful that ►Jesus can do anything and that he helps us follow him? Let's pray and thank Jesus for helping us and loving us.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, please help us keep our eyes on you every day. Thank you for helping us when we have problems. Amen.**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**

Collect name tags for next week's use, and remind children to take home any crafts they made today.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ Lively Learning: Bible Big Book Listening Center



Let children listen to the *Bible Big Book* story. Set the *Bible Big Book* and the CD player in a corner of the room. Choose one child to be the book holder and one to be the page turner. Assure children that they'll each have a chance to be a helper another time. (You may wish to keep a record of the children who've been the holder and page turner.) Be sure to tell children to listen for the sound of the bell and to turn the page when they hear it. The entire story of "Jesus' Miracles" is track 12 on the CD.

■ Make to Take: Follow-Me Painting



Cover a table with newspaper. Place containers of paint on the table. Provide several 6-inch lengths of string or yarn for each paint color. Distribute sheets of white paper. Show children how to dip the string or yarn into the paint and drag it across the paper. Point out that the paint follows the yarn wherever you pull it. Remind children how important it is to follow Jesus. Because ► Jesus can do anything, he can help us follow him.

■ Treat to Eat: Making Waves



Have children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink. Set out graham crackers, plastic knives, and canned icing. Be sure the icing is room temperature so it will spread easily. Demonstrate how to swirl the icing and make little peaks that look like waves. Then have children make waves of icing on their crackers. As children eat their crackers, have them take turns retelling the Bible story and telling how Jesus walked on the water because ► Jesus can do anything.



■ Story Picture: Peter and Jesus Walk on Water

Give each child a photocopy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Set out glue sticks, flat toothpicks, crayons, and star stickers. Have children color their pictures and then glue toothpicks to the sides of their boats and place star stickers in the nighttime sky. As they work, ask children to take turns telling the story of Jesus walking on the water.

Up 'n' Down in the Water

Photocopy this handout. Color the picture, and cut on the outline of the water, Jesus, and Peter. Put glue on the back of the handout's edges and on the back of Jesus; then glue the picture to a sheet of paper. Be sure not to glue Peter. Fold on the dotted lines to make Peter sink in the waves. Lift up to bring him out of the water.



Today I learned...

Lesson 9

Jesus can
do anything.

Today your child learned that Jesus can do anything. Children learned that Jesus walked on water and kept Peter from sinking. They talked about the importance of keeping their eyes on Jesus.

Verse to Learn

"With God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26b).

Ask Me...

- Why did Peter start to sink in the waves?
- Why do you think it's important to keep your eyes on Jesus?
- What are some ways our family can follow Jesus?

Family Fun

- Make dish washing fun by encouraging your child to use dishes that sink and float to retell the story of Jesus and Peter as they walked on the water. A bowl can become the disciples' boat, a floating plastic spoon may be Jesus, and a saucer may represent Peter sinking in the waves.

Peter and Jesus Walk on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)

