



WEEK THREE - JULY 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *On Top of the Sea • John 1:43-51*

Bottom Line: *Stay focused on Jesus.*

Memory Verse: *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." - Philippians 1:6 NIV*

Life App: *Confidence - Living like you believe what God says is true.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: There's an important story about confidence found in Matthew 14:22-33. Peter and the rest of the disciples were out on the Sea of Galilee when they noticed a figure walking on the surface of the water. When they finally realized that the figure was Jesus, Peter called out and asked Jesus to invite him onto the water. Jesus did. And Peter took a stroll on top of the waves. However, only when Peter is focused on Jesus is he able to stay above water.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask kids to pair up.
- Tell kids to stare at each other for 10 seconds and then turn back-to-back.
- See if they can tell you (without looking back) what color their partner's eyes are.
- Switch partners and play again, asking different questions each time.
 - What color is your partner's hair?
 - What kind of shoes is your partner wearing?
 - Is your partner wearing socks?
 - How many buttons did you see on your partner's clothes?
 - Is your partner's hair long or short?
 - Is your partner wearing a belt?
 - Is your partner shorter or taller than you?
 - What color are your partner's eyes?
 - What colors is your partner wearing?
 - Is your partner wearing open or closed-toed shoes? (You may need to explain this concept.)

What You Say:

*"In our Bible story today we will hear about some waves that were even higher than yours.
Let's go!"*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Stay focused on Jesus. "When we put our confidence in Jesus, we are able to find the courage to make the wise choice in a difficult situation. Jesus may not be asking us to walk on water, but He does have something planned for us. We hope kids start to understand some practical ways for how they can focus on Jesus and what He wants for their life."*

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Focus Chart

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding

What You Need: "Focus Chart" Activity Pages; markers; die

What You Do:

- Encourage your group to sit in a circle.
- Provide every kid with an Activity Page and a marker.
- Encourage kids to leave the circle in the middle blank for now.
- Ask them to think of the different things in their life that take up their time.
- Prompt them with ideas such as: homework, sports, music lessons, school, video games, time on their tablet or game device, hanging out with friends, etc.
- Encourage them to choose six of those things and write each one in a piece of their pie chart. Instruct kids to number each pie piece as well.
- Demonstrate how to roll the die and land on a number.
- Explain that whichever number they roll, they will point to that number on their pie chart and talk about whichever activity is written down.
- Let kids take turns rolling the die and sharing which activity is written in that particular pie piece.
- For each kid who shares, ask them how they could focus on Jesus during that activity.

- To help get them started, provide them an example from your own life, such as: "If I rolled a three and my number three was 'cleaning my house,' I could get distracted because I could end up spending too much time cleaning and not leave any time to read my Bible and pray. BUT I could also put my headphones in and listen to the Bible while I'm cleaning and stay focused on Jesus."
- Make sure kids understand that not every single activity they do throughout their day has to be focused on Jesus. But help them walk away with some good ideas for how they can focus on Jesus during everyday things.

What You Say:

*"You each came up with some incredible examples of how to stay focused on Jesus during the things that take up time in your life! I'm also proud that you recognize how even the good things can sometimes distract us from being close to Him. **[Make It Personal]** (Share a personal story about how something good in your life distracted you from Jesus and how you had to learn to put Him first.) No matter what is filling our time, we always have a chance to **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on Jesus. This week, I want you to use this pie chart to remind yourself of all of the times when you can put Him first!"*

2. Piece of Pie

[Memory Verse Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines & working as a group

What You Need: "Focus Charts" from previous activity; markers; Bibles

What You Do:

- Help your group to look up Philippians 1:16 together.
- Encourage them to write the memory verse in the circle on their pie chart.
- Practice the verse in a game in which kids echo back short phrases of the verse as you say them.
- Tell them that you will look at one kid at a time.
- That person must echo back the words you say and not blink until you look at someone else.
- The person you look at next will begin the echo while trying not to blink.
- Each time you start the verse over, change the way kids must focus. Instead of not blinking, have them:

- Imitate the tone or pitch of your voice
- Mirror your movement as you speak
- Use the same facial expression (fish face, squinty eyes, wide eyes)
- Follow a familiar tune such as "Happy Birthday"

What You Say:

*"Our memory verse this month says that God will complete the good work He started in us. This means that He has plans for you and me that He wants to accomplish. What are the dreams you have for yourself? Like what do you want to be when you grow up or what things are you excited about doing next year at school? (Encourage each kid to share.) Those are wonderful ideas! You are big dreamers. I can't wait to see the plans God has for you unfold. Whatever we are trying to accomplish, it's always a good idea to **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on Jesus."*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: "Focus Charts" from previous activities

What You Do:

- Ask each kid to find one thing on their chart that they could spend five minutes without this week.
- Provide examples such as: time on the tablet/gaming device, video games, TV, etc.
- Make sure they understand that they can't spend five minutes less on things their parents ask them to do, such as: soccer, violin practice, cleaning their room, etc.
- When each kid has chosen their activity, encourage them to review their memory verse, read the Bible story, or pray during those five minutes every day this week.
- Let a few kids share which activity they've chosen and what they think they'll do to focus on Jesus during those five minutes.

What You Say:

"Dear God, we know that our time is filled with many things. Some are really good for us, and others are just for fun. Whatever we are doing this week, I pray that we can always

[Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus. Help us to learn how to put You first in everything we do so that we may bring You glory with our lives! We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, have each kid show off their Focus Charts. Prompt them to share what thing they will spend five minutes less on to help them [Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus.