



WEEK THREE - JULY 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

Bible Story: *On Top of the Sea • Matthew 14:22-33*

Key Question: *What distracts you from focusing 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 - FREE PLAY

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Just for Fun

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Pair kids up.
- Explain that this activity requires kids to focus.
- For Round 1, instruct pairs to count 1-2-3 over and over, alternating who says the number. For example:
 - Kid #1: says 1
 - Kid #2: says 2
 - Kid #1: says 3
 - Kid #2: says 1 and continue for about 15 seconds or so
- For Round 2, instruct pairs to repeat the activity but kids clap instead of saying #1. For example:
 - Kid #1: claps
 - Kid #2: says 2
 - Kid #1: says 3
 - Kid #2: claps and continue until they get the hang of it
- For Round 3, instruct pairs to repeat the activity but now kids jump instead of saying #3. For example:
 - Kid #1: claps
 - Kid #2: says 2
 - Kid #1: jumps
 - Kid #2: claps

- Kid #1: says 2
- Kid #2: jumps and continue for about 15 seconds or so
- Ask: What round was the hardest to keep track of the count? Why or why not?
- If you have extra time, allow kids to create their own movement and/or sound for #2 or even replace the clap and jump with something else for #1 and #3.

What You Say:

"Let's head to Large Group to hear a story about someone who lost his focus, looked away, and ended up getting all wet."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: What distracts you from focusing on Jesus?. Let's be honest, kids have a lot going on. From school to extra-curricular activities to hangouts with friends, preteens have full social calendars. We hope that through this question, they will begin to figure out how they can make focusing time with Jesus a priority in their life.

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

1. Verses to Take with You

[Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain & taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: "Focus First Cards" Activity Pages; Bibles; index cards

What You Do:

- Shuffle the "Focus First Cards" and lay them out facedown on the floor in a giant grid pattern.
- Explain to kids that it's important to be focused to win this game. Encourage them to not get distracted.
- Guide kids to play a game of "Focus" with the cards.
 - Kids take turns flipping over two cards trying to match the verse reference with the verse.
 - Encourage kids to use the Bible to look up verse references they don't know and get excited if/when they do know some of the verses!
 - Kids can use index cards as bookmarks.
 - To keep things moving quickly, kids get only one turn, even if they find a match.
 - The kid or team with the most matches wins.
- Let kids divvy up the cards with full verses printed on them.
- Encourage them to take home a verse they can think about this week. Tell them to put the verse in a place they will see it often, such as a bathroom mirror or bedside table.

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - How do you recognize when you are being distracted? How do you recognize when you aren't focused on Jesus?
 - What distracts you from focusing on Jesus? How can you get rid of these distractions or make them less of a distraction?
 - Are there times when you feel like it's more difficult to stay focused on Jesus? When is it easy to be focused on Jesus?
 - What does it look like to stay focused on Jesus? Are you literally thinking about him 24/7? How do you "do normal life" while also staying focused on Jesus?

- Why do we need to stay focused on Jesus? What's one thing that's better in your life when you're focused on Jesus?

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Review the ways remain focused on Jesus that your group talked about earlier.
- Give kids a moment to think about one of the ways they will practice this week to stay focused on Jesus.
- Ask Jesus to help them stay focused on him by _____ .
- For example, lead the prayer with:
 - Jesus, I want to be focused on You. Help me to read my Bible every day this week.
- Close prayer time by thanking Jesus for always being there for us even when we get distracted.