



WEEK THREE - JULY 2018 - KINDERGARTEN/FIRST

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. In the Boat, Out of the Boat

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite everyone to gather on the same side of the carpet (or "in the boat") and then explain that when they stand in this area, they are **IN THE BOAT**.
- Ask kids to jump to the other side of the carpet (or outside of the boat) then tell them that area is **OUT OF THE BOAT**.
- Explain that when you tell them to go **IN THE BOAT**, they should move to one side of the carpet and if you tell them to go **OUT OF THE BOAT**, they should jump quickly to the other side.
- Warn them that you might try to fool them so they must listen well and focus carefully. (Some of the tricks you can use are pointing to one side as you call out the opposite side, repeat the same side several times, increase the pace, or say the first part of the phrase and then stop abruptly.)
- After the game, praise the kids for being good listeners and keeping their focus on what they were doing.

- Ask them to name some things Jesus wants kids their age to do. What does He NOT want them to do? See if they can tell you a few ways kids in kindergarten and first grade can learn about Jesus and how to follow Him.
- Explain that doing those things helps keep our focus on Jesus.

What You Say:

*"When we do what the Bible tells us to do, we **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on Jesus. One of the best ways to find out what God wants you to do is to listen well to the Bible stories we tell at church. The people in your life who love God will help you know how to obey Him. Listen to them the way you did in our game. We can also **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on Jesus by asking any questions we have about Him and by doing our GodTime devotionals."*

2. Imitation Recitation

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Hand the Bible to one of the children and ask them to open it up to where they think the memory verse, Philippians 1:6, is located. (They don't have to be exact, just close—in the New Testament and toward the back.)
- Read Philippians 1:6 aloud to the kids.
- Remind kids that the Bible contains many promises from God.
- Ask if they can tell you what the promise is in Philippians 1:6.
- As needed, help them put into words that God has a plan for everyone who follows Him and He promises to work out that plan for as long as they live.
- Practice the verse with a game of "Imitation Recitation" in which kids echo back short phrases of the verse as you say them.
- Tell them that you will look at one child 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:

"Great job staying focused! Philippians 1:6 is a promise from God to those who [Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus and follow Him by doing the things He tells us to do. God has a plan for all those who love Him. That's pretty fantastic, isn't it? Let's say Philippians 1:6 one more time with as much excitement as we can. Ready? Follow me." (Lead kids by jumping up and down, clapping your hands, or other expressive actions.)

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask one of the children to stand in front of the group and show what we look like when we pray. (The child might kneel, raise his hands, fold his hands, close his eyes, look up, sit, lie down, or any number of postures.)
- Let the others mirror the child who is posing.
- Allow each child an opportunity to demonstrate a different prayer posture while the others imitate his pose.
- Tell the kids that we can pray anytime, anywhere, and in any position.
- Remind them Peter prayed for help when he started to sink while walking on the water. Invite them to show you how Peter might have looked as he called out to Jesus for help.

What You Say:

*"Prayer is one of the best ways to [Bottom Line] **stay focused on Jesus**. Choose one of the prayer positions we mirrored earlier and then let's pray together. (Pause as everyone positions themselves for prayer.)*

"Dear God, we are so glad that we can talk to You anytime, anywhere, and no matter what we're doing. When we pray, we can stand, sit, kneel, lie down, or walk, and You hear all of our prayers. Help us to stay focused on You by talking to You often every day. In Jesus' name, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up challenge kids to tell them what they remember about the Bible story—without blinking.