



WEEK 4- January 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: Jesus can do what is impossible.

Walking on Water • *Matthew 14:22-33*

Memory Verse: "With God all things are possible." *Matthew 19:26, NIV*

Key Question: Who can do anything?

Bottom Line: Jesus can do anything.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Make it Fun

Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.

-Walk this Way

Make it True

Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world.

-Large group time

Make it Stick

Activities and crafts that help kids personalize the story and apply the truths to their life.

-Boat Act Out
-Beach ball impossibility
-Jesus can Do anything
-Journal and prayer

9:10-9:25 | 10:40-10:55 | 12:10-12:25 - MAKE IT FUN

1. Walk This Way

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in front of you.

During the Activity: Challenge the children to pretend to walk like the following animals: dog (walk on all fours), monkey (walk up right while scratching tummy and head), crab (walk on all fours with tummy facing up), and a giraffe (walk on tiptoes with neck stretched up). Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's walk like different animals!"

During the Activity: "First, let walk like a dog. Everyone walk on all fours, like this (*demonstrate*). NICE! Let's be monkeys! Walk while scratching your tummy and your head. Such funny monkeys! Let's be crabs! This one is a little hard. Lie down on your back and try to walk with your arms and legs. (*Demonstrate.*) Whew! That was hard. Let's do one more! We can be giraffes! Walk really tall on your tippy toes and stretch your neck up tall! Way to go!"

After the Activity: "It was so much fun to walk like different animals. We are going to talk about someone who walked somewhere AMAZING! I can't wait!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to walk like animals to the story area.

9:25-9:45 | 10:55-11:15 | 12:25-12:45 - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: Jesus can do the impossible. Finally, the children will hear what Matthew tells us about another time when he and the disciples were out on a boat. They were out a pretty good distance and guess who comes walking towards them on the water? Jesus! Jesus was walking on water. Wow! Jesus can do anything.

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 MAKE IT STICK

1. Boat Act Out

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: Floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Use the floor tape to make a large boat shape on the floor in the middle of the activity area.

During the Activity: Choose one child to go first. This child will not get into the boat. Have the other children get into the boat and sway back and forth as if they are riding on the water. Retell the Bible story. Have the child that is not in the boat pretend to be Jesus and walk toward the boat. Repeat the activity until each child has a turn to pretend to be Jesus.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "WOW! A boat! (*Point.*) Let's get in!"

During the Activity: "This boat looks like the one that was in our Bible story today. Let's act out the story. Let's pretend to ride in the boat (*sway with the children*). Uh-oh! I see a storm coming. It is raining! (*Cover your head.*) The water is getting really rough! (*Sway harder and move around the boat.*) I see Jesus! (*Have child start walking.*) WOW! Jesus can do what is IMPOSSIBLE! He is walking on the water!" (*Finish activity and repeat several times.*)

After the Activity: "Jesus can do anything! Jesus can do what is impossible! **Who can do anything? [Bottom Line] Jesus can do anything!**"

2. Beach Ball Impossibility

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Beach balls (one for every two children)

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area. Help them pair up with a friend. Give each pair a beach ball. Spread out the pairs in your activity area. Call out different actions for each pair to try with the beach ball. These actions may seem hard or impossible.

Actions:

Hold the beach ball between two people's shoulders.

Hold the beach ball between two people's legs.

Hold the beach ball between two people's knees

Sit down facing each other, and hold the beach ball between two people's feet, off the ground.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come gather here with me. For this game, you will need a partner.

During the Activity: "I'm going to call out an action that you and your partner will try to complete with your beachball. These actions may seem impossible, but I want you to try!"

After the Activity: "Great job, friends! Some of these actions were easier than others. Sometimes things are hard or impossible. But NOTHING is impossible for Jesus. Jesus loves you, He wants to be your friend forever, and He can do anything! Tell me: **Who can do anything? [Bottom Line] Jesus can do anything!**"

3. Jesus Can Do ANYTHING!

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: Small sand buckets (one per child); craft sticks (one per child); "Jesus Cut Out" and "Stories" Activity Pages; cardstock; "Bottom Line Labels" Activity Page; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; scissors; clear tape; stickers, and a permanent marker (for the leader only!)

(Optional: Instead of a small bucket for each child, you may choose to punch two holes in the top of a paper cup and run a chenille stem through the holes to create a pail.)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Stories” Activity Page onto cardstock and cut apart (one set of images per child). Copy the “Jesus Cut Out” Activity Page onto cardstock and cut apart (one cutout per child). Attach each cutout to a craft stick with clear tape. Copy the “Bottom Line Labels” Activity Page onto the label paper (one label per child). Set the buckets and stickers on the tables.

During the Activity: Encourage each child to use the stickers to decorate the buckets. Pass out a label to add to the side. Give each child a prepared Jesus puppet and a set of images from this month’s Bible stories. Hold up each scene and use the dialogue below to remind the children of the Bible story. Children can hold up the Jesus puppet in front of each scene as they retell the story.

After the Activity: Make sure each child places their Jesus puppet and the four images in their bucket. Write each child’s name on his/her bucket with the permanent marker and set aside for pick up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “All month long, we’ve been learning that **[Bottom Line] Jesus can do anything!** Let’s make a craft to take home to help you remember some of the incredible, amazing, and impossible things that Jesus can do!”

During the Activity: “This label says, **[Bottom Line] ‘Jesus can do anything!’** Let’s stick this label on the side of your bucket.

(Hold up the image of the six water jugs.) Does anyone remember what Jesus did at the wedding he attended? *(Pause.)* Yes! He turned plain old water into a super fancy party drink.

(Hold up the image of a net full of fish.) What happened when Jesus told Peter to put his nets into the water after he’d had NO luck catching any fish? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus made SO many fish swim into the nets that the nets broke.

(Hold up the image of the loaves and fish.) “What did Jesus do with just five loaves and two fish? *(Pause.)* He fed a huge crowd of over 5,000 people!

(Hold up the image of the water and boat.) “What impossible thing did Jesus do in our story today? *(Pause.)* Yes! He walked on the water.”

After the Activity: “Jesus can do so many incredible, impossible, and amazing things! **[Bottom Line] Jesus can do anything!** I want you take these home in your bucket this week. You can hold up this stick and place the picture of Jesus in each scene and tell your family and friends that Jesus can do what is impossible! **Who can do anything? [Bottom Line] Jesus can do anything!**”

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Matthew 19:26, NIV. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group. You will also need reward stickers or a hand stamp for saying the Bible verse.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. Today we are going to pretend to jump in puddles of water on our way to our Small Group spot. Follow me and let’s go splash, splash, splash!”

(Pretend to jump in water puddles as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

SGL: “Splash! Splash! Splash! And one last big SPLASH! Yay! Here we are! Thanks for pretending with me. Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)

“Our Bible story today was about ANOTHER thing that only Jesus can do. What did Jesus do in our story that only He can do?”

(Pause for response.)

“YES! Jesus walked on water! Like He really walked on top of water! And do you know how Jesus walked on water? Because Jesus is God’s Son and with God ALL things are possible! It says so right here!”

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

“*With God all things are possible*, Matthew 19:26.”

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

“We have been learning this amazing verse. Let’s stand up and say it one more time together with the motions and then anyone who wants to say it by yourself can give it a try. I have my stickers/hand stamp ready!”

“All together now!”

CHILDREN and SGL: “*With God (point both hands up) all things (spread your arms out in a moving circle in front of your body) are possible (two thumbs up), Matthew 19:26.*”
(Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: “You sound ready to me! You can sit back down, and when it’s your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and say it.

(Say each child’s name. Make sure to give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his own. Have your stickers/hand stamp ready to give when they say it.)

“I am so proud of you, [child’s name]! Here is your sticker/hand stamp!

(Give a high five to each child after they say the verse.)

“Now it’s time to write in our journal and pray.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Today we are going to make a list of our favorite things to do with water. It can be swimming, taking a bath, playing in the rain, fishing, boat rides—there are so many things we can do with water! When I say your name, tell me what YOU like to do with water.

(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

“This is such a fun list! We can do lots of things with water. But there’s one thing only Jesus can do with water: WALK! Only Jesus can walk on water. Let’s pray and thank God for what we can do with water and that Jesus has the power to walk ON water. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, thank You for water. Thank You that we can *(read the list the children made)*. And thank You that **[Bottom Line] Jesus can do anything**. He can even walk on water! Now that’s AMAZING! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”