

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids see that when they stay focused on Jesus, they can have the confidence to take on whatever life throws their way. Pray that today's message would sink into their hearts and minds.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids with a fist bump or high five as they arrive.
- Invite each kid who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Start a clapping game of "concentration."
Repeat this rhythm:
Concentration (*clap, clap, clap*)
Sixty-four (*clap, clap, clap*)
No repeats (*clap, clap, clap*)
Or hesitations (*clap, clap, clap*)
I'll go first (*clap, clap, clap*)
You'll go second (*clap, clap, clap*)
The category is (*clap, clap, clap*)
[category name].
- Fill in with a category of your choice.
- Challenge the kids to keep the clapping rhythm as they go around the circle and each contribute a word that fits the category.
 - For example, if the category you chose is cereal, a kid can say "Corn flakes."
 - Instruct the rest of the kids to echo the kid's choice with (*clap, clap, clap*).
 - Direct the next kid in the circle to name a different cereal then the kids echo with three claps.
- Once the category gets around the circle, repeat the opening rhyme and instruct the kid to the left of you to choose a new category.
- If anyone hesitates and loses the rhythm, repeats an answer from that round, or can't think of an answer, they're "out" for that round.
- Play as long as time allows.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

One Step at a Time
Peter Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on Jesus.

MONTHLY 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

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



WAVE DROP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Blue tablecloth or blanket and noise makers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each kid a noise maker.
- Instruct them to try out their noise maker a few times, then only use it when you signal them.
- Place each team on opposite sides of your small group area.
- Arrange the teams so they sit facing each other.
- Ask for a volunteer to help you hold the tablecloth between the two groups, about shoulder-height, where they can't see underneath it.
 - If you have an uneven number of kids in your group, ask the oldest kid in your group to be your assistant.
 - The tablecloth should act like a curtain, separating the two groups.
 - Tell the kids that the tablecloth is "the wave," in today's Bible story.
- Instruct each team to silently choose a player to sit close to the "wave."
- Count to three and drop the "wave."
 - Consider wiggling it around near the players or raising and lowering it repeatedly to make it more challenging, especially if you have mostly older kids.
- At the same time you lower the "wave," signal the rest of the group to use their noise makers.
- The two kids then see each other and the first one to say the other's name, wins!
- Direct the kid who was slower to join the winner's team.
 - If your group is mostly new kids, direct the kids to say a color on the shirt of the person facing them, or the color of their hair, etc.
- Silence the noise makers and hold the "wave" up again.
- Instruct each team to silently choose another kid to approach the "wave" for their turn.
- Play as long as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Was it hard to concentrate on your friend with the dropping waves and the noisemakers? Why? Distractions can make it really hard to focus, even on something you know really well, like your friend's name (*or shirt color, etc.*).

"In our Bible story, Peter had to concentrate on Jesus when the storm was all around him. What happened when he took his eyes off Jesus? (*He started to fall in the water.*) It was a big, distracting storm! I don't blame Peter for getting worried.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

One Step at a Time

Peter Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on Jesus.

MONTHLY 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

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



*DISTRACTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper clips, index cards, cups, water, paper towels squares, pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a cup filled with water and a paper clip.
- Instruct the kids to drop the paper clip in the water and observe what happens.
- Ask the kids to share why they think the paper clips sank.
- Pass out index cards and pens.
- Ask the kids to think about their answer to this question: What are some things that can keep you from focusing on Jesus?
- Give kids a moment to think of two things that could keep them from focusing on Jesus and write down two of their ideas on the index card.
- Give each kid a new paper clip and a paper towel square.
- Encourage the kids to imagine that the paper towel represents their distractions.
- Instruct the kids to place the paper clip on top of the paper towel square.
- Guide them to gently place the piece of paper towel, with the paper clip on top, in the water and observe what happens. *(The paper towel will sink, and the paper clip will float.)*

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

One Step at a Time
Peter Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on Jesus.

MONTHLY 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

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Why this works:

If you drop a paper clip in water, the paper clip sinks. But if you put the paper clip on a piece of paper towel, after about 30-45 seconds the paper towel will sink and the paper clip will float. This is because water particles are attracted to each other in all directions, making them "stick" together. However, because there are no water particles above them, the water particles at the surface "stick" only to particles next to and below them. This makes the surface act as if it has a thin "skin." This is called surface tension. The paper towel helps you lower the paper clip onto the surface gently without breaking the surface tension.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The paper towel that represented all your distractions sank while the paper clip did not! Did you expect the paper clip to float? *(Pause for responses.)*

"Just like the impossible happened with the paper clip, the impossible happened when Peter stayed focused on Jesus. He was able to walk on water! But he started to sink when he focused on the storm instead of Jesus.

"You did a great job of coming up with a list of things that might distract you from focusing on Jesus. There are so many things in our lives that can distract us from staying focused on Jesus every day. It's so important to learn how to

(* DISTRACTIONS, CONTINUED)

stay focused on Jesus during those times. It not only changes how you live your life every day but also how you see the hard things you face in life. It will give you the confidence to make wise choices so you can deal with them the way God wants you to.

[Make It Personal] *(Share a story about something in your life that distracted you from Jesus and what you did to shift your focus back on Jesus. Did focusing on Jesus change how you saw your situation? Did it help you make wiser choices?)* "No matter what distracts us, we always have a chance to **stay focused on Jesus.**"

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



FOLD IT! SAY IT!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: “Folding Verse” Activity Pages, upbeat music, device to play music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a “Folding Verse” Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to look at their Activity Page and recite the verse a few times.
- Instruct the kids to place their verse on the floor.
- Tell the kids that when you start the music, they should start dancing on their paper. If they step off the paper while the music plays, they are out for that round.
- After 30 seconds, stop the music.
- Ask the kids to pick up their paper and read the verse again.
- Instruct the kids to make a backward fold on the dotted line marked “Fold 1.”
- Direct the kids to place the folded paper back on the floor.
- Challenge kids to dance again when you start the music, but to try to stay on the paper even though it’s smaller than it was before.
- After 30 seconds, stop the music.
- Ask the kids to pick up their verse and recite the verse without unfolding the paper.
- Instruct the kids to fold the verse on the dotted line marked “Fold 2” and place the folded paper back on the floor.
- Continue in this way until the Activity Page is folded on all of the dotted lines.
- The kid who can dance on the smallest piece of the verse, wins!

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. His plans are good and perfect. It’s one reason why we need to **stay focused on Jesus**, so He can help us make wise choices and avoid distractions. I can’t wait to see the plans God has for you!”

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

One Step at a Time
Peter Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on Jesus.

MONTHLY 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

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Index cards from “Distractions” activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to get their index cards.
- Ask the kids to look at their index cards and identify one distraction they need the strength to deal with or avoid so they can focus on Jesus.
- Encourage the kids to take a few minutes to silently talk to God about it.
- Close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, thank You for always being with us and keeping Your promises. Please give us the strength to avoid the distractions we identified so we can focus on Your Son, Jesus. We want to see our lives, fears, and problems the way You see them so we can have the confidence to make wise choices and live the way You want us to. We want to **stay focused on Jesus**. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, prompt kids to show off their 3-D diorama and share how Peter walked on the water when he stayed focused on Jesus.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

One Step at a Time
Peter Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on Jesus.

MONTHLY 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

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Confidence—Learning to see
yourself the way God sees you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.