



Early Childhood Devotions

FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 7

REAL. PRESENT. GOD.

FOCUS: Jesus Is Real. Jesus Is Present. Jesus is God.



Jesus Walks on Water

(Matt. 14:22–32; Mark 6:45–51; John 6:16–21)

Before You Teach

This month's narrative focuses on the peace that Jesus brings in times of fear. Children need to be taught and reminded that they can lean on Jesus. They need to see Him at work in the lives of adults and be encouraged to pray to Him anytime they are afraid. Let us teach and pray that the Holy Spirit will comfort us when we are afraid and remind us that we can lean on Jesus for help and comfort in times of need.

Greeting

Welcome each child upon entry. ***“Good morning (afternoon), child of God. I am so very happy you are here today!”*** These first few seconds establish a positive outlook for the day.

Gathering

YOU WILL NEED: A designated worship area (a table or small altar, an altar cloth, a cross or picture of Jesus, a Bible and a battery-operated candle).

Signal children to gather together. Teach and sing or pray: ***Let our prayers and praises ring, and to Jesus let us bring open ears and hearts now stirred to receive God's holy Word.***

[Tune: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (LOSP, P. 96)]



Tell the Story

PREPARATION: Draw a blue “water” line and adhere a precut boat shape to chart paper or poster board; precut simple Jesus and Peter figures. .

SHOW AND OPEN THE BIBLE. One day Jesus told His disciples to get into a boat **(add sticker dots to boat)** and row to the other side of a lake while He said goodbye to a crowd of people. When evening came, the disciples were far from land. The wind was blowing and waves **(draw waves)** of water were growing higher, splashing more and more water into the small boat. Darkness had come **(scribble to blacken sky)** by the time Jesus **(add Jesus figure)** went out to the disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Jesus they were very afraid, shouting, “It’s a ghost!” Jesus said to them, “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid!” Then the disciple Peter said, “Lord, if it’s You, tell me to come to You on the water.” “Come!” Jesus said. **(Add Peter figure on water.)**

Peter got out of the boat and, walking on the water, went toward Jesus. But when the wind began to blow, Peter became afraid and began to sink (lower figure). He shouted, “Lord, save me!” **(Repeat with children.)** Immediately, Jesus reached out and caught Peter saying, “You have so little faith. Why do you not trust Me?” When Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat, the wind stopped blowing. Amazed, the disciples worshiped Jesus, saying, “Truly, Jesus, You are the Son of God.” **(Repeat with children.)** Jesus was with Peter and the other disciples! Jesus is real! We trust Jesus to always be with us! **(Repeat.)** Jesus is God! **(Repeat.)**



PRAY TOGETHER

Children repeat each phrase first spoken by the leader.

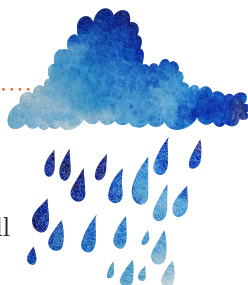
Dear Jesus / You are with me everywhere / Thank You for Your loving care / Amen.

Remember the Story

BIBLE WORDS TO REMEMBER

Pre-K & K: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear” (HEB. 13:6A).

Gr. 1 & 2: “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go” (GEN. 28: 15).



ACTIVITIES

Create: You will need: White paper, brown construction paper, sticker dots and blue and/or gray tempera paint, markers or water colors. Guide children to paint a storm scene. Precut, or have children cut, boat shapes from construction paper. Guide them to place sticker dot “disciples” in their “boats.” Glue boats to dried “storm” paintings. Display with the Bible words.

Do: “Feelings” Game. Jesus’ disciples were afraid. Feelings are not good or bad; they simply are. Preparation: On each side of a small square box, draw a facial expression portraying an emotion, e.g., happy,



sad, angry, afraid, confused or frustrated. Children take turns rolling the die, naming the expression shown and telling something that might cause them to feel that way. Jesus always loves however we may feel!

Sing: “God Is Near Me” {LOSP, P. 107} (Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”). Invite children to add verses, e.g., “When I’m glad and happy,” “When I’m very angry,” “When I’m tired and grumpy

Live the Story

We teach trust by being trustworthy. Predictability and consistency are important components of establishing and maintaining trust relationships, especially with young children. It is critical to be who we say we are and to do what we say we do. Speak the truth in love. Promise only that which can be achieved.

Sending

Gather children in a “Sending Circle.” Pass a beanbag or small cross, guiding each child to take a turn to offer a brief prayer or to silently pass the beanbag/cross along. As children depart, say to each, **Jesus is with you wherever you go!**

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NOTE: You will need the songbook: Little Ones Sing Praise (LOSP), copyright © 1989 Concordia Publishing House (CPH), St. Louis, Mo.

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