

Leader Guide

Equip

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on water, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" They may have feared losing their lives out on the sea. It was a common belief at the time that people saw ghosts as they were approaching their own death. Jesus called out to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Matthew 14:27). Peter responded to Him asking for proof. "If it's you, let me come to you on the water." "Come," Jesus answered. And Peter went.

Peter walked out to meet Him, but he took his eyes off Jesus and instead looked to the seemingly impossible circumstances. He immediately began to sink. As Peter cried out to the Lord, "Save me!" Jesus instantly reached out and grabbed him. Jesus was close to Peter in what seemed like his greatest time of need. Truly, Peter was safe the entire time. But his perception was that he was in dire straits. He took his focus off the truth, forgetting what was real and instead believing the circumstances. Regardless, Jesus is always near.

Support

Our world is in the midst of very trying times with the Covid pandemic. Try to remember: What was true of God in the past is true of Him still. He is very present and very near to you. He will not leave you, abandon you, or give you away. You have been chosen, redeemed, and adopted by Jesus—and you are His. He will walk with you through each moment, every day. He will provide a path for you to follow. Trust in Him; He is near.

As you prepare for your ministry to children this week, find a solitary place to be alone with God and let Him pour the peace of His Spirit over you. Pray that your time with Him is sweet and fills you up—restoring all that has been depleted. May you feel His presence and hear His voice calling you to "come."

Preschool Lesson: May 16

Main Point: God is Near

Intro: 15 Minutes

Welcome kids as they arrive. They are allowed to play with toys, color, or play outside if weather permits.

Transition Time: 10 Minutes

Have kids clean up all the toys and turn the toy shelves around so toys are no longer accessible. Then have the kids wash their hands and come sit at the table to eat a snack and have some water. Also encourage them to use the restroom at this time.

Activity #1: 10 Minutes Sink or Float

Supplies: Large Bowl, Water, a rock, a ball, a pen, a marker, a rubber duck, and other small objects

Instructions: Fill the large bowl with water. Ask the children if they think the item will sink or float. Have the children take turns placing the items, one at a time in the water.

Lesson Intro & Worship: 10 minutes

Have kids come sit down on the carpet. Encourage them to each find their own "square" to sit/stand in.

Friends, do you know that God is always with us? It's true! That means when we want to talk to Him, He is right here, ready to listen. Let's talk to God right now and ask Him to teach us today. **Open in prayer.**

Let's spend some time in Worship! Invite children to worship with the Instruments!

Play Walk on Water by Elevation Rhythm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-os9zYEg60>

Bible Story: 15 Minutes

Read Bible Story to the Children. Bible is located in classroom and tabbed.

Play The Rock Kids Pre-K Video

Let's end in prayer:

When you're feeling scared (Child's Name) ... God is near!

When you need a friend (Child's Name) ... God is near!

When you want to talk (Child's Name) ... God is near!

When you're laughing out loud (Child's Name) ... God is near!

When you're singing a song (Child's Name) ... God is near!

When you're eating a meal (Child's Name)... God is near!

When you're feeling alone (Child's Name) ... God is near!

When you call out to Him (Child's Name) ... God is near!

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Activity #2: 10 Minutes | God is Everywhere

Supplies: Parachute

Instructions: Take the activity outside if weather permits. Demonstrate how the parachute goes up and down (you will need a couple of helpers). Use the following phrases as you play:

Under! You can run under! God is under!

Over! You can run over! God is over!

Up! The parachute goes up! God is up!

Down! The parachute goes down! God is down!

God is with us always! God is Near! God is Everywhere!!

Ending:

Let kids play until parents arrive. They are allowed to play with toys, color, or play outside if weather permits.

As parents pick their children up, tell them the main points we talked about today and the activities we did. Please make sure kids take home all the things that they came with (ex. Jackets or toys) and any crafts they made in class.

After children are gone, please wipe down the chairs and tables and switch out the toys with the clean ones in the cabinet.