

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 22 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Miracles of Jesus / Jesus walks on water
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 14:22-32; Mark 6:45-52
- **CONCEPT:** Jesus has the power to walk on water

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that the same Jesus who walked on the water is the same Jesus who takes care of us.
- To invite kids to accept Jesus as their Saviour and keep their eyes on Him throughout their lives.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with blindfold inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Basin of water
- ✓ Items for 'float or sink' experiment – e.g. wooden block, metal spoon, pencil, piece of cheese, strip of tin foil, etc.
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together (<i>Jesus in My Life / I Love You</i>). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down.	You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i>
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B. Message 15 minutes 1. Recap Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the blindfold you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain what it should remind us of today. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap last week's story of Jesus healing Blind Bartimaeus. Jesus loves us and He sees our needs. He wants us to believe in Him. He has the power to heal us. If you have time, you could also recap last week's Bible verse, or refer to it if you displayed it in your room: <i>You are the God who does miracles; you have shown people your power. Psalm 77:14</i> Finish by eliciting the concept: Jesus has the power to heal. 2. Set the scene Today, we're going to do an experiment. I have a basin of water and some other things with me. I'm going to show you something, and you have to tell me whether you think it will float or sink. Then we'll test it in the basin of water. <i>Set out a basin of water where kids can see what you're doing.</i> The first thing I have with me is a wooden block. <i>Show kids the block.</i> Put up your hand if you think it will float in the water. Put up your hand if you think it will sink. Okay. Let's put the block in the water and see what happens. <i>Put the wooden block in the basin of water.</i> The block is floating! <i>Repeat the experiment with a few more items, e.g. a metal spoon, a pencil, a piece of cheese, a strip of tin foil, etc.</i> What about you? Would you float or sink in the water? Who wants to jump into my basin of water and test what happens? Only joking! Some things float on the water, and some things sink. With people, the answer can be different. We're going to hear a story today from the Bible about a water experiment. <i>Set the basin and items to the side.</i> 3. Tell the story Do you remember a couple of weeks ago we heard about Jesus feeding thousands of people with the little boy's lunch? When everyone had finished eating that night, Jesus told his disciples to get into the boat and head back across the Sea of Galilee. Only Jesus didn't go with the disciples. He went up into the mountains to spend some time alone, talking to God, His heavenly Father.	You'll need ... <i>Treasure chest / blindfold</i> <i>Basin of water</i> <i>Wooden block</i> <i>Items for 'float or sink' experiment</i>
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It was nighttime now, and Jesus was alone up in the mountains. The disciples had been sailing the boat for some time, and they were quite far out from the shore. But they weren't sailing as quickly and easily as they could have been because it was so windy! The wind was strong and it was blowing against them. Even though the men were pulling on the oars with all their strength, the boat wasn't moving too much because the wind was blowing them back again. The men were exhausted but they couldn't take a break. They couldn't stop working against the wind because the waves were getting bigger and there was a chance that the boat could sink and they would drown.

Well, to make things worse, the disciples saw something coming towards them on the water. They couldn't quite make out what it was – it didn't look like another boat, or a tornado or anything else they could imagine. As it came closer to them, the men cried out in terror. "It's a ghost!" they screamed. They were absolutely terrified! So scared they could hardly look. But they had nowhere to run to.

This was no ghost. This was Jesus! Jesus had seen their boat get into trouble from his place up in the mountains, and had gone down, walking out to them on the water. Jesus was walking **on** the water! "Don't be afraid," said Jesus, "It's me."

The disciples looked at each other. Jesus? Walking on the water? Am I dreaming? Are *you* dreaming? This cannot be real! But the boat was still rocking up and down, from side to side, with the waves rolling and crashing into them.

It was Peter, one of the twelve disciples, who spoke next. "Lord," he called out, "if it's you tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus said to Peter, "Come." (Matthew 14:28-29)

You'll never guess what crazy Peter did next! Peter climbed down the side of the boat and put his feet into the cold waves. He was looking at Jesus. And his feet stayed where they were. Peter didn't sink down into the sea like the other disciples expected him to! Peter took a step forward. And another one. Peter was walking towards Jesus, keeping his eyes on Jesus the whole time. Peter was walking on the water! Just like Jesus! It was amazing! Peter's friends in the boat stood watching, open-mouthed. Unbelievable!

But then, Peter took his eyes off Jesus. He could feel the waves around his legs and he looked down. Uh-oh! The wind was strong and the waves were frightening. Peter started to sink, falling down into the waves. What was happening? One minute he was walking on top of the water, the next he was sinking. "Lord, save me!" shouted Peter (Matthew 14:30).

At once, Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter. "Why did you stop believing that I was helping you, Peter," said Jesus. "Why did you start thinking about the wind and the waves?"

Jesus and Peter climbed back into the boat with the other disciples, and immediately, just like that, the wind settled down and the storm disappeared. The men were amazed at this miracle. They said to Jesus, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:32)

4. Explain

Jesus' disciples had been with Him for some time. They thought they were getting to know their new friend, when He amazed them again. This was an awesome sight – Jesus walking on the water while they were in deep trouble in this storm on the sea. What was even more amazing was when Peter jumped out of the boat to see if he could walk on the water too! Peter believed in the power of Jesus. They had all seen how Jesus had made the little boy's lunch feed thousands of people. They had seen many other miracles that they didn't really understand. But Peter knew that this man was special. Peter believed. He had faith that Jesus' power would help him walk on the water too, and he was right! Peter was able to take those few steps on the surface of the water without sinking! It was incredible! But when Peter took his eyes off Jesus, when he stopped looking at and believing in Jesus, that's when he started to sink. Peter was looking at the waves around his feet and started to doubt Jesus. He started thinking that this couldn't be possible and he became scared of drowning. That's when Jesus stepped across and caught Peter. Jesus wasn't going to let Peter drown.

Boys and girls, do you ever feel like your problems are crashing around you like waves in a storm? Do you ever feel like school is just too difficult, and life is not fair, and why do these things have to happen to me? Do you ever feel like giving up in the storm? These wonderful stories of Jesus teach us that Jesus is so much bigger than the storms. He has power over everything! When we decide to follow Jesus and live for Him, the problems don't go away, but Jesus will stay with us in the storms. The important thing is that we remember He is there with us. Remember Peter – He could walk on top of the water when he kept his eyes on Jesus. When he stopped looking at Jesus, he began to sink. When we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can be sure that He is with us and will help us. And even if we do feel like we are sinking, we can just call out to Jesus like Peter did, and Jesus will catch us before we fall. He promises to be there for us, any time we need Him.

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.
4. Explain that when we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things.
5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.
6. Encourage kids to believe in the power of Jesus to help them in their 'storms' and to save them when they feel like they are drowning in problems.

You'll need ...

Net (with last week's prayer cards)

Small cards / postcards

A pen

THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 22 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making self-portraits for display on our notice board.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Activity: Slide (Hebrews 12:2a)
 - Crazy Voice Box (a small box to hold slips of paper)
 - Slips of paper with a different voice style written on each, e.g. French, frog, cold, American, dog, whisper, Australian, cat, etc.
- ✓ Activity:
 - Tables
 - Pre-made portrait (see instructions and photos below)
 - Sheets of A5 paper (one per child)
 - Colouring pens / pencils / crayons
 - Card frames (cut down A4 sheets of card to act as frames for the A5 portraits)
 - Glue
 - Decoration materials (e.g. colouring pens, glitter glue, stickers – whatever you have)
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>set them to the side. Tell kids that they will be on the notice board before your next meeting.</p> <p>8. Put tables to the side.</p>	
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<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (<i>Jesus in My Life</i>) 2. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes. 3. Close in prayer. Thank God for loving us and for looking after us. Ask God to help us keep our eyes on Him, when we're at home, at school, playing with our friends, and on The Island. 4. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>7 minutes</p> <p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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