

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<b>Lower Elementary</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Keep your eyes on Jesus.	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None
<b>WHERE'S JESUS? BINOCULARS:</b> Kids create binoculars to help them focus on Jesus.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> None	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Empty toilet paper tubes, hot glue gun, white construction paper, markers, crayons, school glue, hole punch, yarn
<b>Upper Elementary</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Help me, Jesus!	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles
<b>WATER WALKING GRAPHIC NOVEL:</b> Kids illustrate the Bible verses of the story to create a new way to see it.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> None	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils, fine-tipped markers, colored pencils, copy paper, rulers, 3-ring binder, 3-hole punch
<b>All Kids</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Jesus walks with us.	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None
<b>WALKING-WITH-JESUS MAGNETS:</b> Kids trace their foot and make a reminder magnet.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pair of shoes	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Craft foam, scissors, roll of self-adhesive magnets, pencils, fabric paint in tubes, fine-tipped permanent markers, craft glue, craft jewels and/or sequins, paint shirts, plastic cover for table



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.



**Workshop Focus:** Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Walking on Water Storytelling

**Welcome to Art Workshop! Look down at your feet. Where do your feet like to walk?** (*sidewalk, street, grass, floor*) **Do you think your feet would like to walk on water? Today someone in our story is going to walk on water.** (Jesus) **That's right! Let's turn to Walking on Water on page 294 in our Spark Story Bible.** Wait until all the kids have located the story.

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
None

Read Walking on Water aloud, stopping at each of these action words or phrases and inviting kids to do these actions with you.

- Yawn
- Stretch
- Rubbed his eyes
- Shaking in their sandals
- Waved a friendly hello
- Gulp
- Placed one foot on the water
- He tried the other foot
- He walked faster and faster

- Took his eyes off Jesus and looked up at the dark clouds
- Peter was sinking
- Jesus reached out his hand and pulled Peter out of the sea
- Climbed into the boat full of cheering disciples

Talk about these questions together.

**Why were the disciples scared when they saw Jesus walking on the water?** *(They thought he was a ghost.)* **Who else took some steps on the water besides Jesus?** *(Peter)* **When did Peter begin to sink?** *(when he took his eyes off Jesus)* **How did the other disciples feel when Peter got back in the boat?** *(They were excited.)*

**This story shows us how special Jesus is! He can walk on water and he helped Peter to take some steps on water, too. Peter learned that he had to keep his eyes on Jesus. We can keep our eyes on Jesus, too. By reading the Bible, loving other people, and praying, we keep our eyes on Jesus.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Where's Jesus? Binoculars

**Set Up:** Measure and cut craft paper into pieces just large enough to cover the toilet paper rolls. Cut yarn into 2 foot (61 cm) lengths. Set out supplies.

#### Activity Instructions

**We are going to make binoculars to help us keep our eyes on Jesus.**

1. Give each kid two pieces of the pre-cut craft paper. Help kids write "Keep your eyes on Jesus" with a marker on one of the pieces of paper. Encourage kids to decorate both pieces of paper, using the markers and crayons.
2. Give each kid two toilet paper tubes. Show kids how to glue one of their drawings onto each toilet paper tube using school glue.
3. Direct kids to take both of their toilet paper tubes to the hot glue gun area, where an adult will glue the tubes together.
4. Help kids use the hole punch to put a hole on the top, outside edge of each toilet paper roll.
5. Give each kid a piece of yarn. Show them how to tie the ends of the yarn into each hole so they can hang their binoculars around their neck.
6. When everyone is finished, invite kids to show their binoculars to one another and tell about the drawings they've put on them.

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Empty toilet paper tubes, two for each kid  
 Hot glue gun  
 White craft paper  
 Markers  
 Crayons  
 School glue  
 Hole punch  
 Yarn, 2 feet (61 cm) for each kid

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**It's so good to know that Jesus helps us. We don't need to be afraid. We can keep our eyes on Jesus and trust him! We can look for Jesus in our Spark Story Bibles. We can look for Jesus in the actions of people who help others. Our binoculars will help us remember to keep our eyes on Jesus.**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**Put your Where's Jesus? binoculars around your neck. Whenever you hear me say "Hooray! We can . . ." put your binoculars up to your eyes. Then you finish my sentence by saying, "keep our eyes on Jesus!" Let's practice once. Hooray! We can . . . (keep our eyes on Jesus)!**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus, who walked on the water.**

**We can. . .** *(keep our eyes on Jesus)!*

**Thank you for Peter, who asked Jesus to help him.**

**We can. . .** *(keep our eyes on Jesus)!*

**Thank you for all the ways you help us.**

**We can. . .** *(keep our eyes on Jesus)!*

**Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** Help me, Jesus!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksondayschool.org](http://www.sparksondayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Walking on Water Storytelling

Greet kids by name and thank them for coming. **Today we are going to check out the action-packed story of Jesus walking on water. Let's find Matthew 14:22-33 on page 1076 in our Spark Bibles.** When all kids have located the story, ask for volunteers to read it aloud. Have kids place an I Read It sticker next to this story in their Spark Bibles.

Discuss these questions, allowing kids to answer.

**What are some of the major events in this story? What are the emotions we read about in this story?** (*fear, relief, faith, excitement*) **Why would you be willing or unwilling to walk out on the water like Peter did? This story is from the Gospel of Matthew. The word gospel means "good news." What's the good news in this story?** (*Jesus is God's son, Jesus helps us*)

**Spark Resources**

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**

None

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Water Walking Graphic Novel

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**Set Up:** Using the 3-hole punch, put holes in the copy paper. Set out supplies.

### Activity Instructions

**Have you read a graphic novel? What was it like?** (Graphic novels tell a story with words and simple line drawings, like a comic book.) **We are going to work as a team to turn the story of Walking on Water into a graphic novel.**

**Let's look at the story in our Bible again. We will put each verse of the story on its own page.** Divide the verses among the kids. If possible, put 2-3 kids on a team. Teams will work together to illustrate several verses.

Distribute paper and art materials. Have extra paper on hand so kids can make rough drafts if they'd like. Recommend to kids that they make their drawings in light pencil first, then go over the lines with the marker. If there is time, kids can color in their drawings with colored pencil.

Check in with the groups throughout this activity and encourage them if they get stuck. Urge kids to illustrate every detail in the verse. Tell kids how much time they have left to work.

When there are about five minutes left, gather all the drawings in order and place them into the 3-ring binder. **Now, we have our graphic novel all assembled. Let's read it.** Encourage artist teams to read their page to the group and explain their illustration choices. Congratulate the whole group on their work to create the graphic novel.

If possible, ask a Shepherd or class helper to make photocopies of the entire thing for each kid to take home.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

### Supplies

Pencils  
Fine-tipped markers  
Colored pencils  
Copy paper  
Rulers  
3-ring binder  
3-hole punch

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thanks for your creative work today. You brought this story to life in a way that really grabs our attention and makes us see it in a new way.** Invite kids to think about what other Spark stickers would be appropriate to reflect their learning about this story. Invite kids to place these stickers in the margins of this story in their Spark Bible.

Challenge kids to illustrate other biblical stories in this same fashion at home and to share them in a future class.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**For our closing prayer, I will end each petition with "Help us to pray" and then you'll respond with the words of Peter, "Help me, Jesus!" Say it like Peter did!**

**Jesus who walks on water,  
Peter was afraid. Sometimes, so are we.  
When we are afraid, help us to pray . . .** (*Help me, Jesus!*)

**Sometimes, life can feel a little complicated.  
At times like this, help us to pray . . .** (*Help me Jesus!*)

**Sometimes, we wonder if we have enough faith.  
When we wonder about this, help us to pray . . .** (*Help me Jesus!*)

**Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** Jesus walks with us.

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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Walking on Water Storytelling

Enthusiastically welcome kids to the art workshop. Show them the pair of shoes.

**Why do we wear shoes?** (*they help us to walk and run, protects our feet*) **Today we are going to explore a walking story from the gospels. So open your Spark Story Bible to page 294 or your Spark Bible to Matthew 14:22-33, page 1076.**

Ask for volunteers with Spark Bibles to read the story.

**Look at the picture on page 295 in the Spark Story Bible. Can you find Peter? What is he feeling about stepping out and walking on water?** (*scared*)

**Let's try walking like Peter. Carefully get out of the boat one foot at a time. Start walking. Splish. Splash. Splish. Splash. Let's pretend Jesus is standing over there.** Gesture to a place in the room. **Keep your eyes on Jesus. Now feel the wind blow. Look up at the sky. Oh no, you are starting to sink. Sink! Sink! Sink! Now Jesus reaches his hand out to you and pulls you back up. Hooray! Now walk with Jesus and climb back into the boat. How exciting! We made it!**

**How did it feel to walk on water with Peter?** Encourage discussion. **Jesus wants to walk with us, just like he walked with Peter. That means that every moment of our lives, Jesus is with us.**

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles

#### Supplies

Pair of shoes

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Walking-With-Jesus Magnets

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**Set Up:** Cut self-adhesive magnets into 1" (2 cm) pieces. Each kid will need two magnets and one piece of craft foam (the size of a kid's foot). Cover work table with plastic cover. Set out supplies.

### Activity Instructions

**We are going to make Walking-With-Jesus magnets so we can remember that Jesus walks with us. You can put your magnet on your refrigerator at home. Every time you look at it, you can remember that Jesus walks with you.**

1. Pair up the kids so that older kids can help younger kids. Have kids put on paint shirts.
2. Give each kid a piece of foam and a pencil. Instruct them to trace one foot on the foam with the pencil. They can do so with or without a shoe on.
3. Instruct kids to carefully cut out their foot shape and write "Jesus Walks With Me" on it with a marker. Write the phrase on the board so kids know how to spell it. Younger kids might need to write the words in pencil first.
4. Give each kid two magnets. Kids attach the magnets to the back side of their foam foot, at the top and the bottom.
5. Point out the paints, craft glue, and jewels or sequins. Kids can decorate their foam foot magnet.
6. Stagger the footprints in two lines on the table when kids are finished so it looks like the footprints of one person.

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Craft foam (size of a kid's foot)

Scissors

Roll of self-adhesive magnets

Pencils

Fabric paint in tubes

Fine-tipped permanent markers

Craft glue

Craft jewels and/or sequins

Paint shirts

Plastic cover for table

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**You've created wonderful magnets that you can take home and enjoy. They will remind you and your family that Jesus walks with us.**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

## Prayer Time

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**Let's do a follow-the-leader prayer. Line up behind me and follow what I do as we pray. Ready? Here we go!**

Begin walking slowly around the room.

**Hello, Jesus. Today we learned about how you walked on water. That was so amazing!**

Stop and pretend to sink.

**We learned how Peter tried to walk on the water with you and started to sink when he took his eyes off of you.**

Bounce back up to a standing position.

**We learned that you helped Peter get safely back in the boat.**

Walk quickly.

**Wherever we go, whatever we do, we know that you are with us.**

Walk slowly.

**Help us to slow down and look to you for help.**

Stop.

**We love you Jesus! Amen.**