

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: When we focus on Jesus, we see things in a new way.</p> <p>GUESS WHAT I SEE! Kids practice their focusing by observing and drawing pictures from various perspectives.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Magnifying glasses</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Guess What I See! Data Sheet (page 131), Guess What I See! Picture (page 132)</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Clear tape, masking tape, measuring tape, jumbo craft sticks, cold laminating film, pencils, baskets</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus' love keeps us buoyant when life pulls us down.</p> <p>THE FORCE OF BUOYANCY: Kids test out the theory of buoyancy with several objects.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: The Force of Buoyancy Data Sheet (page 133)</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Gallon-sized plastic bags, wide black permanent marker, sea salt, large measuring cups, oranges, diet soda, regular soda, eggs, apple, lemon, toothpick, block of hard wood (oak, maple, etc.), super bounce ball, ping-pong ball, metal spoon, plastic spoon, paper towels</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Sticking with Jesus will keep us steady.</p> <p>WATER BUGS AND SKIPPING STONES: Kids learn about surface tension through water experiments.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bible, Walking on Water Sticky Notes Phrases (page 135)</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Sticky notes in different colors, sheet of labels</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Water Tension Experiment Cards (pages 137-140)</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Kiddie swimming pool, blowing bubbles, clear water glasses, pitchers of water, pennies, eye droppers, chenille craft stems, play dough, bell, towels</p>



Visit 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: When we focus on Jesus, we see things in a new way.

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 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

Set Up: If your group is large, you may wish to pre-mark their Spark Story Bibles to page 294-295.

Activity Instructions

Welcome, fellow scientists! Today we are going to focus on Jesus in our story and see some things in a new way. Pass out the magnifying glasses. **Who knows what these are? I wonder what they do.** (*make little things bigger, make big things bigger, let us see better*) **How might we use a magnifying glass to see things in a new way in our Spark Story Bibles?** (*could help us read words better, see little items in a picture*)

Today we will use our magnifying glasses to focus on pages 294 and 295 in our Spark Story Bible. Give kids a chance to find the pages. **First, let's try to count the number of lines on Squiggles' body. How many lines does Squiggles' body have on page 295?** (*two lines*) **That's just one of the little things we can see with the magnifying glass. As I read the story, use your magnifying glasses to check out other details in the pictures.** Read the story as kids use magnifying glasses to explore the pictures. This may work better with kids on their tummies on the floor so they can place the book flat on the floor.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Magnifying glasses, 1 per kid

Did you find lots of new things with your magnifying glasses? Accept whatever the kids want to share. **Good job! Remember the part in the story when Peter glued his eyes on Jesus? Peter was focusing on Jesus because he trusted Jesus. But then Peter got scared and took his eyes off Jesus. What happened then?** *(Peter sank in the water)* **Peter focused his eyes on Jesus and he felt trust. Then Peter looked away and he fell in the water. Splash!**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Guess What I See!

Set Up: Make four copies of the Guess What I See! picture. Tape one on each of the four walls of the room. Tape one picture right side up and one picture upside down. Tape the other pictures sideways in opposite directions. Measure 6 feet (2 meters) from the wall in front of each picture and make a masking tape line on the floor. Measure 3 feet (1 meter) from the wall for the next tape line. Finally, measure only 1 foot (30 cm) from the wall in front of each picture and make another masking tape line.

Cut laminating film into 12 4-inch (10 cm) circles, three circles for every picture. Attach the circles to jumbo craft sticks with tape so they look like eye cover-uppers at an eye doctor's office. Kids will use them to cover one eye while they look at the pictures.

Place a long table next to each picture station. Put a basket on each table. Put 3 magnifying glasses and 3 eye cover-uppers in each basket. Kids will be drawing their pictures on these tables.

Copy enough data sheets for all kids.

Activity Instructions

We learned that Peter kept his focus on Jesus and did miraculous things.

What parts of our bodies do we use to focus? *(our eyes and our heads facing that direction)* **Let's see what happens when we focus on some pictures. I wonder what different things we will each see.**

We will divide into four groups. Count off by fours to form groups. **Group 1 will go to Picture 1, Group 2 will go to Picture 2 and so on.** Distribute a pencil and a Guess What I See! data sheet to each kid. **You will take turns and get three chances to look at the picture on the wall. You will start by looking at the picture from the tape mark farthest from the wall. Then you will move up to the second tape mark and look at the picture again. Then you will move up to the closest tape mark in front of the picture.**

At each picture station, there's a basket of magnifying glasses and eye cover-uppers that you can use to see the picture in a new way. Demonstrate where these tools are and how to use them.

Spark Resources

Guess What I See! Data Sheet (page 131)

Guess What I See! Pictures (page 132)

Supplies

Clear tape

Masking tape

Measuring tape

Jumbo craft sticks

Cold laminating film

(available at office supply stores)

Pencils

Baskets

You will look at each picture 3 times, once from the furthest line, once from middle line, and once from the closest line. You can cover up one of your eyes with the tool to see what that's like. You can use the magnifying glass to see what that's like. After you look at the picture from all three lines, you go to the table and draw the picture in the box on your data sheet. Don't worry, it's not a test! There are no wrong answers!

When each group is finished in their first spot, they can move to the next wall for the next picture.

When we focus, we can see new and different things. Peter focused on Jesus and walked on water.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

We learned that even though we focused on the same picture, we saw different things. I wonder why it is so hard to focus on Jesus. Do we each see Jesus differently? Is it easier to focus when we are close or far away? Think about how you see Jesus every day. Is it harder to see Jesus up close or far away? How do you see new things about Jesus every day? Accept a few answers depending on time. **When we focus on Jesus, we see things in a new way.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

For prayer time we will do a magnifying prayer. In the magnifying glasses, objects get bigger. I will pray for something very small. Each person will pray for something bigger. The prayers will get bigger and bigger and bigger.

Dear God,

Thank you for the grain of sand . . . (kids will add things that get bigger and bigger) **May our prayers be as big as your love, God.**

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Jesus' love keeps us buoyant when life pulls us down.

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.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Walking on Water Storytelling

Lectio divina is a holy reading of the scripture. It is meant to be contemplative and quiet. Use a quiet voice during the reading. Your calm voice will calm upper elementary kids.

Welcome science explorers! Today we are going to do some tests of buoyancy to help us understand the story of Jesus Walking on Water. Our storytelling time will use a new way to read the Bible called *lectio divina*. *Lectio divina* was used by monks to read Holy Scripture and it is still used today. In *lectio divina*, we read the same part of the story three times and listen for different things each time. I will do the reading and you will do the listening. You don't need your Bibles right now. I will read the same section three times. The reading is from Matthew 14:28-31. **Each time I will tell you what to do. We always begin *lectio divina* in prayer. Let us pray.**

God, come and fill our souls with the words of your love. Amen.

The first time I read, I want you to listen and decide what word is most important to you. What word do you hear in your heart? Read Matthew 14:28-31 slowly.

Pause after reading.

Spark Resources
Spark Bible

Supplies
None

Now think about the word that stood out for you. When I read the words again, say your word over and over in your head, thinking about how the word shows new things in the story. Reread Matthew 14:28-31. Pause.

Now we will read the scripture one more time. This time I will pause at the end of each sentence. I want you to whisper your word aloud. Pause at the end of each verse.

This way of reading the Bible is called *contemplative*. Contemplative means quiet and thoughtful. *Lectio divina* takes time and effort. Today our story is about how much effort it took for Peter to trust Jesus and walk on water. When we trust Jesus, even the hard things are easier.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

The Force of Buoyancy

Set Up: Write large numbers 1-6 on each gallon plastic bag with permanent marker. In each bag put one set of items:

Bag 1: can of diet soda/can of regular soda

Bag 2: hard boiled egg/raw egg

Bag 3: apple/lemon

Bag 4: toothpick/block of hard wood

Bag 5: super bounce ball/ping-pong ball

Bag 6: metal spoon/plastic spoon

Place the bags on a long table. Set up stations. You need one station per team of 3-4 kids. Each station needs an 8-cup (2 liter) measuring cup filled with 6 cups (1440 ml) of water and some paper towels.

Prepare an 8-cup (2 liter) measuring cup filled with 6 cups (1440 ml) of water, a peeled orange and an unpeeled orange to use during instructions. Make copies of The Force of Buoyancy Data Sheet.

Activity Instructions

In storytelling time, we did some hard work with *lectio divina*. Now we are here to talk about buoyancy. Does anyone know what buoyancy means? Accept responses. **Great ideas! So buoyancy is the ability to float. Buoyancy force is determined by the weight of the water moved by any object put into the water. If the buoyancy is pushing an object up in the water, what is the force pushing things down? (*gravity*) For an object to float, the buoyancy has to be greater than the gravity. If I put this orange in the water, will it be buoyant?** After kids guess, drop the orange into the water. It will float. **The orange floated. The force of the buoyancy is more than the force of the gravity. I wonder what happens if we**

Spark Resources

The Force of Buoyancy Data Sheet (page 133)

Supplies

Gallon-sized plastic bags, 6

Wide black permanent marker

Sea salt (or kosher salt)

Large measuring cups (8-cup or 2 liter size), 1 per station

Oranges, 1 peeled and 1 unpeeled

Can of diet soda

Can of regular soda

Hard-boiled egg

Raw egg (have extra eggs on hand in case of breakage)

Apple

Lemon

Toothpick (have extras)

Block of hard wood (oak, maple, etc.)

Super bounce ball

Ping-pong ball

Metal spoon

Plastic spoon

Paper towels

drop a peeled orange in the water. After kids guess, drop the completely peeled orange into the water and it will sink. **The buoyancy in this orange happens in the air spaces in the peel. This makes the orange light for its size. When we peel the orange, it becomes smaller and the air spaces are gone. All of a sudden there is more gravity force than buoyancy force, so it sinks.**

We are going to work in small groups to test items for buoyancy. Divide kids into groups of 3-4, based on the size of your group. **Your will test and compare the items in these 6 bags, then write your results on your Force of Buoyancy Data Sheet. Take only one bag of items at a time. Some of the items are breakable, so be careful. Return the bag to the table as soon as you finish and test a different bag. Any questions?**

If some groups finish early, have them add 1 cup (240 ml) of sea salt to the water and retest. Remind them that Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee, an inland sea that contained salt water. More items will have buoyancy because of the increased density of the salt water.

What did you learn about being held up by buoyancy? Jesus can hold things that are heavy, just like buoyancy can. If life seems heavy sometimes, it is good to know that Jesus can hold us up!

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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.

Let's look at today's headlines in the newspaper. What articles seem heavy to talk about? Allow kids to read some of the headlines. **Are there situations that we cannot handle ourselves?** Kids will identify the really hard and heavy situations. **Jesus holds us up when these situations get heavy. If we focus on the love of Jesus, we feel more buoyant. For Peter, this meant walking on water. What are some ways that Jesus' love holds you up in bad times?** Allow kids to share as long as you have time.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
Front page of today's
newspaper

Prayer Time

Let's pray for all the heavy situations we found in today's newspaper. I'll start the prayer and you add the things you remember from the newspaper.

Dear Jesus,

Surround us in your love as we pray for . . . (kids will add the items from the newspaper story) **Hold us up in your love, Jesus, as we face heavy situations in our lives.**

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Sticking with Jesus will keep us steady.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Walking on Water Storytelling

Set Up: Copy the sticky note phrases onto a full sheet of 16 labels. There are 16 phrases. If you have more kids, make two sets. Peel apart the printed labels and stick each one to a sticky note. You may wish to underline the phrases in the Spark Bible you use to read the story. This will help you know that someone has that phrase and should be putting it up on the wall.

Activity Instructions

Ahoy, fellow scientists! Today in Science we will hear about Jesus walking on water. The disciples were working hard to catch fish. Sometimes it is hard to stick to our faith when our lives are busy.

I have some sticky notes with phrases that tell about some of actions in the story. I'd like you each to take a sticky note with a phrase. Listen carefully as the story is read. When you hear the phrase you are holding, put it up on the wall. Does anyone need help reading the phrases? Big kids, please help younger kids so everyone knows what their sticky note says.

Read Matthew 14:22-33 in the Spark Bible aloud, or a good older reader may read this story. Pause as kids put up their sticky notes.

Spark Resources

Spark Bible
Walking on Water Sticky
Notes Phrases (page 135)

Supplies

Sticky notes in different colors
Sheet of 16 labels (available
at an office supply store)

Thanks for the help with the sticky notes. Look around the walls. **I heard that there was lots of action in the story. What happens to your faith at home when life gets really busy?** Listen and affirm ways kids and families remember to pray, get organized and take care of one another when their lives are busy. **We stick to Jesus just like our sticky notes stick to the wall. Sticking to Jesus will keep us steady in life.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Water Bugs and Skipping Stones

Set Up: Before class, enlist Shepherds or parent helpers to set up, help, and clean up at four stations. They will really help!

Station 1: Fill a kiddie swimming pool about half way with water. Remember to plan ahead for how you will empty the pool. Place bottles of blowing bubbles and Water Tension Experiment Card 1 next to the pool. Cards are on page 137.

Station 2: Put 2 clear glasses, 4 eyedroppers, and a full pitcher of water on a table with Water Tension Experiment Card 2.

Station 3: Put 2 clear glasses, 20 pennies, and a full pitcher of water on a table with Water Tension Experiment Card 3.

Station 4: Put the chenille craft stems, play dough, and Water Tension Experiment Card 4 on a table.

Activity Instructions

We are going to do some experiments to learn more about surface tension and water. Water has a sort of sticky skin across the top. This tension allows things to float. Who can think of some things that float in water? Affirm all answers of things that float. **A water lily floats because it doesn't weigh much and it is very flat. It is actually resting on the surface tension of the water.**

Divide the kids up into four teams, each team made up of older and younger kids.

Look around the room. There are four stations. We will need one team to start at each station.

At Station 1 you will be testing water tension with bubbles at the kiddie pool. Be sure to read Water Tension Experiment Card 1 next to the pool.

At Station 2 you will be testing water tension with water and eyedroppers. Be sure to read Water Tension Experiment Card 2.

At Station 3 you will be testing water tension with water and pennies. Be sure to read Water Tension Experiment Card 3.

Spark Resources

Water Tension Experiment
Cards (pages 137-140)

Supplies

Kiddy swimming pool
Bottles of blowing bubbles
Clear water glasses, 4
Pitchers of water
Pennies, 20
Eyedroppers, 4
Chenille craft stems
Play dough
Bell
Towels for spills

At Station 4 you will be making water bugs with play dough and chenille craft stems. Be sure to read Water Tension Experiment Card 4. At the end of class we will all see if the water bugs can stay on top of the water.

After 5 minutes, you will hear a bell. Then you should go to the next station. We will move to the next station in the same direction as a clock. Okay? We will try to get everyone to each experiment. Let a Shepherd or adult know if water spills on the floor.

Good job, scientists! Let's try those water bugs on the two pools. I wonder whose water bug will stick to the surface tension and whose water bug will sink?

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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.

In our story about Jesus walking on water, Peter became frightened. What happened when he began to fear? (he started to sink in the water) Yes, we can keep our eyes on Jesus and trust him, because sticking with Jesus can keep us steady.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
Bubble wrap cut into 6-inch
(12 cm) squares.

Prayer Time

For prayer time, we are going to remember those bubbles that popped on the top of the water. Each of you will get a piece of bubble wrap. I will start the prayer. If you want to add to the prayer, you use words and then pop a bubble. When we say, "Amen:" put your bubble wrap on the floor and we'll all pop together.

Dear Jesus,

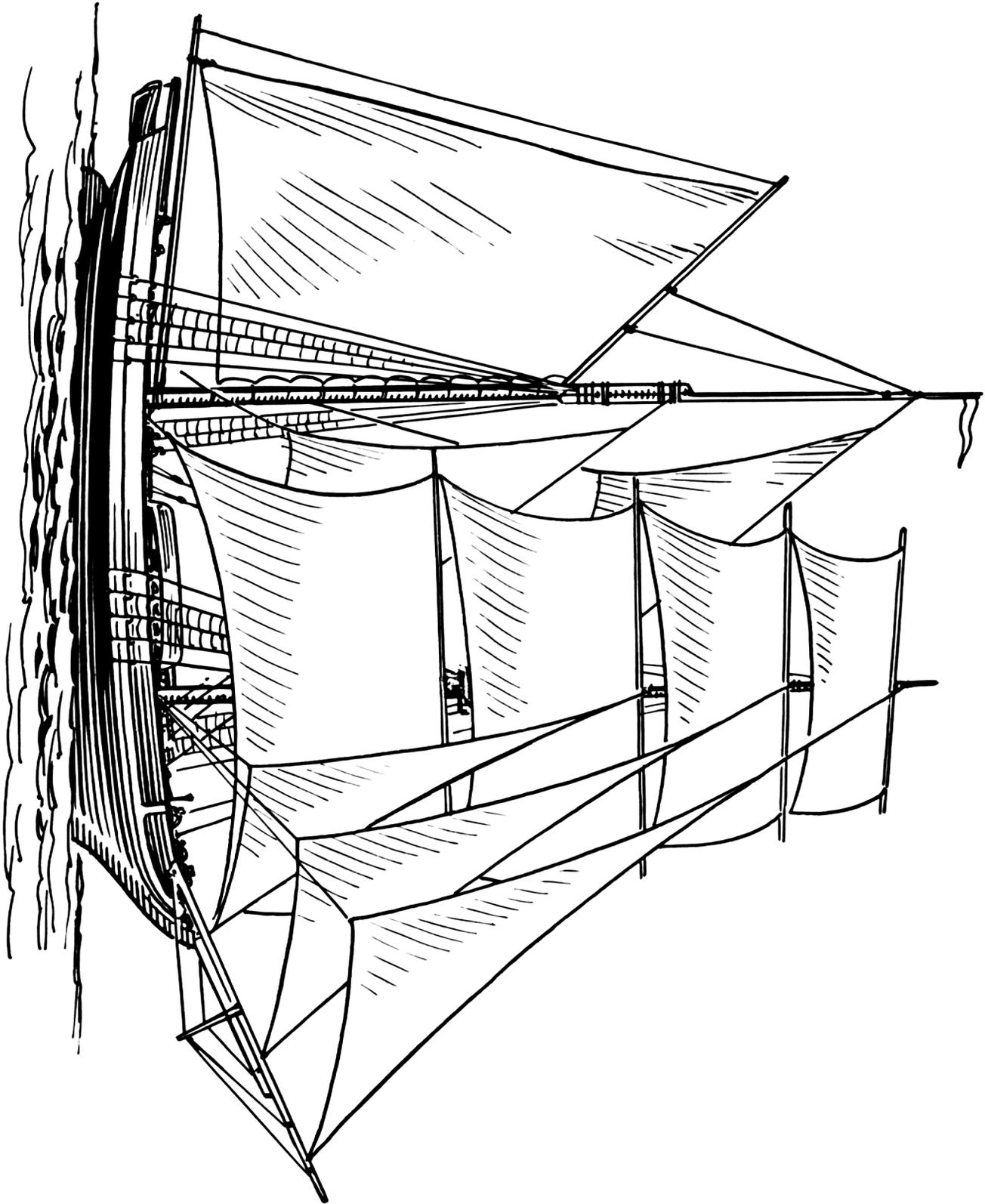
Sticking to our faith isn't easy. Please help us stick to our faith when . . . (kids will add things like at home, in soccer, at school etc.) Now everyone say, "Amen" with a big POP!

Guess What I See!

Data Sheet

3	1
4	2

Guess What I See Picture



The Force of Buoyancy Data Sheet

Bag and Items	Floats (Buoyant)	Sinks (Gravity)	With Salt
Bag 1 Item			
Bag 2 Item			
Bag 3 Item			
Bag 4 Item			
Bag 5 Item			
Bag 6 Item			

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Bag 1 Item			
Bag 2 Item			
Bag 3 Item			
Bag 4 Item			
Bag 5 Item			
Bag 6 Item			

Walking on Water Sticky Note Phrases

get into the boat

went to pray

battered by waves

wind against them

walking toward them
on the sea

were terrified

cried in fear

do not be afraid

command me to
come to you

Peter got out of
the boat

walking on the water

came toward Jesus

became frightened

beginning to sink

reached out his hand

caught him

Water Tension Experiment Cards

Blow bubbles over the kiddy pool. Watch the bubbles land on the water. They stick to the water because of the water surface tension. Without surface tension, every bubble would pop when it hits the water. Try catching a bubble on the blower and transferring it to the water.

Water Tension Experiment 1: Bubbles Stick to Water Surface

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Water Tension Experiment Cards

**Water Tension Experiment 2:
Surface Tension and a Glass of Water**

Use the pitcher to slowly fill the glass almost to the top. When the water is almost to the top, use an eyedropper to put in water one drop at a time. Look at the glass from the side. You will see a slightly curved water line above the glass edge. That is the surface tension of the water. See how many drops of water you can add before the surface tension breaks and the glass overflows.

Water Tension Experiment 2: Surface Tension and a Glass of Water

Use the pitcher to slowly fill the glass almost to the top. When the water is almost to the top, use an eyedropper to put in water one drop at a time. Look at the glass from the side. You will see a slightly curved water line above the glass edge. That is the surface tension of the water. See how many drops of water you can add before the surface tension breaks and the glass overflows.

Water Tension Experiment Cards

Drop pennies one at a time into a glass of water. Each time you drop a penny look at the top of the glass. Watch the top of the water. How many pennies can you add so that the water is above the top of the glass but does not spill over?

Water Tension Experiment 3: How Many Pennies in a Glass?

Water Tension Experiment 3: How Many Pennies in a Glass?

Drop pennies one at a time into a glass of water. Each time you drop a penny look at the top of the glass. Watch the top of the water. How many pennies can you add so that the water is above the top of the glass but does not spill over?

Water Tension Experiment Cards

Water Tension Experiment 4: Water Bugs

Water bugs can walk on water because their feet are flat and the water surface tension holds them. Use 2 craft stems to make a bug. Attach tiny, flat feet to the legs. At the end of class we will all see if the water bugs can stay on top of the water.

Water Tension Experiment 4: Water Bugs

Water bugs can walk on water because their feet are flat and the water surface tension holds them. Use 2 craft stems to make a bug. Attach tiny, flat feet to the legs. At the end of class we will all see if the water bugs can stay on top of the water.