

Welcome to the story of Walking on Water. As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **I Went Walking**

Pretend to be Peter talking about his experience. Sit in a circle. The first kid says, *"I went walking on the water."* The group responds, *"What did you see?"* The kid responds, *"I saw [describe something you might see in the water] and Jesus looking at me!"* Play until everyone has had a turn.

- **Protection**

Jesus saved Peter from going under water. Jesus protects us, too. Go around the circle and let each kid name something Jesus protects them from.

- **Cheering Disciples**

Pretend you are on the boat with the disciples. Take turns calling out something wonderful about Jesus. After each statement is made, everyone yells, *"Hooray for Jesus!"* and claps their hands. How many good things about Jesus can you think of?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- What is it like to be in a boat on a windy day?
- Why were the disciples afraid when they saw Jesus walking on the water?
- Would you have gotten out of the boat to walk to Jesus?
- Why didn't the other disciples get out of the boat to walk to Jesus?
- Can anyone besides Jesus walk on top of water?
- What can you trust Jesus to do for you?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Foggy Dawn**

It was hard for the disciples to see through the fog in the morning. Pretend you are walking through thick fog on your way to the next place.

- **Underwater Walk**

Peter would have fallen completely underwater if Jesus hadn't saved him. Pretend you are walking underwater all the way to your next location. How does it feel? What do you see?

- **Row the Boat**

Pretend you are rowing a boat to your next place. Stand in a line. Put one hand on the person in front of you. Pretend to hold an oar in your other hand. Row the boat together as you move along.

- **Ticklish Toes**

What if Peter's feet were ticklish? Would the water tickle his toes when he walked on it? Pretend water is tickling your toes as you move to the next place.

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- **Boat Ride**

Have everyone sit in a circle with their feet touching in the middle. Have kids alternate between lying down and standing up. Have everyone join hands. The standing kids lift the arms of the kids lying down while walking in a circle. The kids lying down arch their backs off the ground and go for a boat ride!

- **In or Out**

Peter took a risk when he got out of the boat. He walked on water a few steps but then he began to sink. Should Peter have stayed in or gotten out of the boat? Have half the group argue for staying in and half for getting out. Should you take risks for Jesus?

- **Focus on Jesus**

Have one person step away from the group. The group decides who will be Jesus. Bring the other person back in. All of the kids look at Jesus using only their eyes. The person tries to guess who Jesus is.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Why did the disciples spend the entire night on a boat in a storm?
- Why did the disciples think Jesus was a ghost? Had they ever seen ghosts before?
- What do you think the other disciples thought when Peter got out of the boat?
- Why do you think Peter started to doubt Jesus and become afraid?
- Do you think anyone else believed this story when the disciples shared it with them?
- Is it hard to trust Jesus? Why or why not?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Gale-Force Winds**

Heavy winds can easily blow a small boat upon the sea. Pretend you are battling a wind storm on your way to the next place.

- **A Ghost!**

The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost. Move your body in a ghostly way to the next place. Try not to let anyone see your feet move!

- **Walkin' on Water**

If you were Peter, how would you walk on water? Would you stomp and splash? Tip-toe? Walk quickly? Kick? Walk like Peter to the next place.

- **Eyes on Jesus**

Peter started sinking because he took his eyes off Jesus. Have one person be Jesus. Jesus stands as far away from the group as he or she can while still being seen. The group travels to Jesus while looking only at him or her. Repeat with a new Jesus until you get to the next place.

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- **I Have Never**

Until the day this story happened, Peter had never walked on water. Go around the circle completing this sentence, *"I have never ____."* If you name something someone else in the group *has* done before, that person raises his or her hand and shares a story about what he or she did and when.

- **My Feet Got Wet**

Kids sit in a circle. Everyone pretends to be Peter telling his story to his friends. The first kid says, *"I was walking on the water and my feet got wet."* The next kid repeats the statement and adds another thing that got wet. Continue around the circle.

- **Rescue Mission**

Have one person stand far away from the group. Pretend this person was walking on water and is now sinking. How will you rescue them? The rules are: one person must stay on the boat (not move from the starting area) and everyone else must be connected to the person on the boat in some way. Work as a team to save your friend! Does Jesus need help to rescue people?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Besides fishing, what else do you think the disciples did on their boat?
- Why do you think Jesus was walking on the water?
- Why did the storm stop when Jesus got onto the boat?
- When was a time you forgot to trust Jesus? What happened?
- Do you think Peter ever got the chance to walk on water again?
- Do you think Jesus would help you to walk on water? Why or why not?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Helping Hands**

Find a partner. One person pretends to be Jesus walking on the water. The other person pretends to be Peter. Jesus walks backwards while Peter walks forward. Jesus leads Peter by the hand as they go to the next place.

- **Walking and Sinking**

The group pretends to be Peter walking on water towards the next place. Kids start out walking tall, but slowly sink. When kids are too low in the water to move forward they say, *"Save me, Jesus!"* The leader helps them stand up and the process continues.

- **Wet Clothes**

Thanks to the storm and walking on water, Peter's clothes must have been soaking wet. What is it like to walk around in wet clothes? Pretend you are all wet as you move to your next location.

- **Jesus Is the Son of God!**

The disciples were so amazed by what they saw, they proclaimed Jesus truly was the Son of God. As you move to the next place, tell everyone you see, *"Jesus is the Son of God!"*