

Children's Worship Lesson – August 9, 2020

Focus Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Purpose: To explore what it means to trust that God is always with us.



An Awesome Adventure: "SEEKERS OF JESUS"

Clue #1: Where we find God

Clue #2: How does God Work in Our World

Clue #3: Joining God in creating Shalom

Clue #4: Give and you will receive

Clue #5: Take my yoke upon you

Clue #6: God's Spirit grows in me

Clue #7: Weeds and Wheat together.

Clue #8: Glimpse of God's Realm

Clue #9: Trust in God's way

Clue #10 God is always with us

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for story/activity at the end of the lesson

Scary object like a rubber spider

Masking tape or wading pool for pretend boat

Lighting the Christ Candle: *We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us*

Prayer

Dear God,

We are searchers, looking for clues about you and your love.

Guide us in the adventure of following you and sharing your love.

Amen.

Song: God is Always with us (Tune: Row, Row, Row your Boat)

God is with us, with us every day.

We're here to learn and trust in God,

By worship, song and prayer.

Introducing the Theme – The “Fears” Game



(This game is played like “Hot Potato”) Pass a scary object like a rubber spider or bat, around a circle while the music plays. Without looking stop the music. The person holding the scary object must say one thing that they are scared of. Keep playing until everyone has had a turn.

Talk about all the scary things that were mentioned. We all have fears and things that scare us. Fear is natural. Sometimes fear is good because it protects us and keeps us from doing something reckless that might hurt us, like touching a hot stove or running in front of a car. But sometimes our fear holds us back from trying something new, like swimming lessons or riding a bike. Those are fears we have to try to overcome so that we can learn to enjoy trying new things. Fear can be helpful or sometimes not so helpful.

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

(Hold up a bible) Can anyone name the book of the Bible we have been hearing stories from all summer? Here is a clue. The person who wrote it was one of the disciples. Jesus said, “Come follow me.” and he left his job as a tax collector and became a disciple. Who was that?

Today’s story from the book of Matthew was about a day when the disciples were out on a boat in the sea of Galilee.

“Out in a boat” Fantasy



Invite the child (ren) to pretend they are in a boat. Gather the child (ren) together in the “pretend” boat and explain the situation to them. They are in a boat in the middle of a big lake, and a storm has come up. The wind is blowing and the waves are getting higher. The boat is being tossed about. (Have the child (ren) pretend to be in a small boat in a storm with the wind blowing and the water splashing up over the edge of the boat.) How are you feeling out in this storm? Perhaps that is how Jesus’ special friends, the disciples felt in today’s bible story.

Explain that this story happens right after the story we heard last week about Jesus feeding the 5,000 people. Listen carefully while I read the story to you so you can discover why Jesus wasn’t with the disciples, how the disciples felt and what happened.

Read Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side while Jesus told the other people to leave. After they left, he went to the mountaintop to pray. Later that night he was there alone, and the boat was already far away from land, blown away by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out walking with them, walking on the lake.

When the disciples saw him walking on the lake. They were scared. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus said to them right away: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Lord if it is you, Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked towards Jesus on the water. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, when he was beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord save me!”

Immediately Jesus held out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

And when they climbed, into the boat, the wind died down. And then those in the boat, worshipped him by saying, “truly you are the Son of God.”

Why did Jesus send the disciples on ahead of him across the lake- what was it Jesus needed to do alone? Talking to God was very important to Jesus. Maybe he wanted to say thanks to God for helping him and the disciples to feed the people. Maybe he was very tired and he was asking God for strength to continue the work that must be done. The disciples were alone in that boat crossing the lake that night. How did they feel when the storm happened? They had good reason to be scared. It would be very scary in a boat in a big storm. Then what happened? What gave Peter the courage to get out of the boat? Peter showed he had great faith, even though he was scared like the rest of the disciples. Peter’s fear didn’t stop him from showing Jesus his faith and Jesus was there to help him when he got scared. Jesus helps us to know that God is always with us. In times when we feel alone or are scared we can remember this story and know that God is always with us.

Activity or Craft – Soap Boats



Materials: Ivory soap, drinking straws, paper cut in half to form triangles, clear white contact paper or wide packing tape, scissors and tape.

Let’s make a boat to remind us of this story and that God is always with us. Give each child a bar of soap. Use a drinking straw cut in half to stick into the soap as the mast. Hand out triangles of paper for children to decorate on both sides. Cover with clear contact paper or packing tape. Fasten said to the straw with scotch tape.

Celery Boats



Materials: celery, cream cheese or cheese whiz, dull knives, pretzels and lettuce or small oblong crackers, napkins.

Hand out cut pieces of celery, blunt knives and cheese whiz or cream cheese. Encourage children to fill the celery. Have the children add a pretzel with a lettuce sail, or push a small oblong cracker into the cheese for their sail (no mast). These boats remind us of today’s story and that God is always with us.

Closing Prayer

Thank you God for lips to praise you,
Hands to serve you and hearts to love you!
Amen.

