



DEEP WATER

Lesson 19

BIG IDEA

The prayer that Peter uttered to Christ while sinking in the raging water is the same prayer that all sinners pray when they realize they are sinking in sin and cannot save themselves.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 14:22-33

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 14:30

“When he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON: INTERACTIVE

- No special preparation required

GAME

- Two ropes

CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples, rulers
- Colored photo copies of template on cardstock
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue or tape

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)
- Photocopies of Work Sheet (domestic communities only)





DEEP WATER

BIBLE LESSON • INTERACTIVE

lesson 19

1. Read the story (scripture). Let's talk about this story as recorded in the Bible, because it is an amazing story. Have you ever heard of anyone walking on water? No human being can do this - only God himself can. Our Lord Jesus Christ was showing us His power over all things here, including His power to save! What was it that Peter said? He cried, "LORD! Save me!" What does that mean - save me? What was he talking about?
2. Today we are going to learn what the word "saved" means. Have you ever really thought about what that word "saved" means? It means rescued!
3. Let's talk about what it means to be rescued. Today we are going to pretend that this open area in the room is a big pool. How many of you have been swimming before? How many of you can swim really, really well? How many of you don't know how to swim?
4. We are going to do a little role playing here. I need someone to be the swimmer and another person to be the lifeguard. Now, "swimmer," I want you to jump into the middle of the pool (have them sit in the middle of the area) and you are going to pretend you DO NOT know how to swim. What happens if you jump in water over your head and you can't swim? You go under the water and you can't breathe! If you can't swim you will die!!! What are you going to do?
5. You need a savior!!! You need to be rescued (saved)! Now, "life guard," I want you to stand on the side of the pool and tell your swimmer to swim to the side so you can pull him out. Can the swimmer do that? NO! He can't swim to the side. If he could swim to the side then he would not need to be rescued, right?
6. What must the lifeguard do to save the person drowning? He must jump INTO the pool with the drowning person, go to where he is, and despite what the drowning person is doing (which is most certainly panicking and flapping his arms and making a mess of things), he must wrap his arms around him and pull him to the side and pull him out of the water. That is what being saved is like. It means you are helpless to help yourself; you are making a big mess, and in spite of your effort at saving yourself, you can't. You need a savior. You need to be rescued or you are going to die!
7. What is this story we just read teaching us? Are you drowning in stormy, raging water? Not really, but that water in the story is a picture of our condition before God. We are not drowning in stormy, raging water but we are drowning in stormy, raging sin. Just like a person that cannot swim, we cannot do good in the sight of God. We are drowning, trying to work our way out of trouble, and instead, we are failing and sinking into punishment for all eternity. Can you walk on water? No, we sink because we are sin! We have to be saved. We have to be rescued, and that is exactly what Christ did when He came to this earth to save His people. He came to where we were, and rescued us!
8. What do you notice about this story? If you know that the stormy, raging water is a picture of our condition of sinfulness, what does that make you notice about the story? Who is not affected by the stormy, raging water? Christ. The reason why is because He is not affected by sin. He



DEEP WATER

BIBLE LESSON • INTERACTIVE (CONT.)

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is perfect and does not sin like we do. He is THE Savior - the one appointed of God to save. He does not sink in sin, but walks above it as a perfect man and the Son of God. What else did you notice about the story?

9. Who was on the water first? Christ was. Before Peter ever got out of the boat and started sinking Christ was already there to save him. Christ did the same for ALL His helpless, sinful children. Did we know that we needed to be saved before the Lord showed us our condition of sin? NO. By nature we all think we can walk on water...meaning we all think that we are good enough to please God. We all think, "I am not a sinner. I can do good whenever I want to," and when we get out there we realize that is not true; we can't walk in perfection. Just like when Christ called Peter (all of us) onto the water, we all realize, "WOW we can't do this - Lord Save me!!!!" Bless God, before that ever happens He is already there, ready to save and is pulling us out. We can't walk on water, but Christ can and did. We can't live sinless, but Christ can and did. We don't need to walk on water, Christ did it for us. We don't need to keep the law, Christ did it for us. The Bible tells us that before the world ever began, He arranged to save all His people and He came to this earth and accomplished that.

10. What an amazing miracle! Surely Christ IS the true Son of God because only the Son of God can be so perfect as to walk on water, walking sinless before God, and by His death we are rescued. What a wonderful prayer, "Lord, Save me!" ...I hope the Lord commands us all to come out onto the water, and when we see we cannot walk on water we cry, "Lord, Save me!"...

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- *Have mission team members do the acting parts instead of the kids.*
- *Tell the account of Peter's trying to walk on water as a simple story or read it from a children's bible.*

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: WALKING ON WATER

Make a little illustration of Peter trying to walk on water (and sinking!) that really moves.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

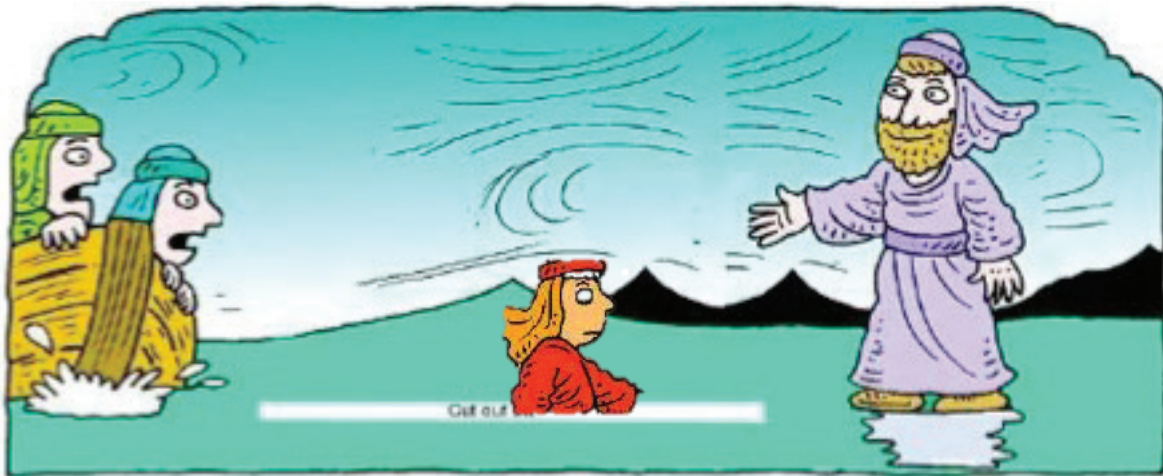
DIRECTIONS

- Cut out picture of Jesus and the boat on the water
- Cut out picture of Peter
- Cut out slit in water
- Glue or tape popsicle stick to the back of Peter
- Slide Peter through the slit in the water
- Act out the story of Peter trying to walk on water

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Colored photo copies of template (next page) on cardstock
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue or tape

EXAMPLE



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTION

- Pre-cut pictures and make a slit in the water.



DEEP WATER

GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: RIVER JUMPING

Jump over the river, but be careful, the river is getting wider!

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Two ropes

INSTRUCTIONS

- Lay ropes parallel to one another, about a foot apart
- Team members ropes at each end and wiggle them gently (like a moving river)
- Line up kids and have them take turns jumping over the river
- When each child has jumped the river, pull the ropes apart by about 6 more inches
- Repeat having the kids jump over the river
- Continue in this manner until the river becomes too wide for most kids to jump
- Variation: Play again with the river getting higher each time. Be sure to hold the rope loosely so the kids won't trip and fall.





