

All-Powerful – Lesson 4

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is all-powerful

Heart Response: Have faith

Memory Verse: Luke 18:27

“Things that are impossible with people are possible with God.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. God is the only one who has the power to do miracles.
2. God is the only one who has the power over all of creation.
3. God allows us to participate in his work to show his glory.
4. God gives us his strength and power when we put our faith in him.

Personal Preparation:

In this unit, we will study the miracles Jesus performed while here on earth. We will learn two very different truths about Jesus. We will learn that he is completely human—we see him fast asleep during a “furious” storm and we also see him attend a wedding celebration. On the other hand, the Scriptures obviously declare his divinity—being fully God. We see that although he is a man, he is still fully God. He displays his power by turning water into wine, by calming a storm, by turning five loaves and two fish into more than enough to feed over 5,000 people, and by walking on water.

These situations seemed hopeless in human terms. We do not have the ability to turn water into wine; we do not have the means to feed or meet the needs of all the people we come in contact with; we have no power over creation and the elements. These miracles show us Jesus’ authority over the impossible. Jesus has power over any storm, any lack, any chaos, any terror, and any situation.

As we share these stories with the children, let’s focus on who God is and how he is more powerful than anything we face in life. We too can have power over fear and sin through Jesus. The power that we see used in these stories is the same power that later raised Jesus from the dead and is available to us as believers.

When Jesus asks his disciples: “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”, he seems to be referring to all the things he has taught them and shown them. The word “still” indicates that Jesus has given them quite a lot of evidence about his power and love. He is saying: “After all you have seen—do you still have no faith? Why are you afraid? Do you have sufficient reason for your fears and doubts?” These are good questions for us to consider too. Do we believe that God is all-powerful and is for us? Do we trust in his power and his hope when situations seem hopeless? Remember, God is omnipotent (all-powerful). We can have faith in him!

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important

opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

Sink or Swim

Supplies:

Large bowl (one per bin)

Pitcher of water if no sink in room (one per bin)

Set of four small items that will sink or float (one set per bin)

Put the bowl of water and the items that you will use for this experiment in the middle of the table in front of the children. Then, tell the children that you have a bowl of water and that together, you will see which items will float and which will sink. Explain that if you put something in and it stays at the top, that means it floats, but if it goes straight to the bottom, then it sinks. Pick one child at a time to help. Show the children an item and ask them if they think it will float or sink. Ask the child helping to put the item in the water. Let the children say whether the item floats or sinks. Call another child up and continue until all items have been tried. At the end, ask them what would happen if you tried to walk on water. Would you float or sink?

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Supplies

Bible (Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-51, John 6:15-21)

Who remembers our memory verse? (Let the children try to say it on their own.) **Let's say it together.** “**Things that are impossible with people are possible with God.**” Luke 18:27.

We have been learning that Jesus performed miracles to show who he is and to demonstrate his power. Do you remember what a miracle is? A miracle is an amazing thing that only God can do. We have learned that Jesus is so powerful that he turned water into wine! And Jesus is so powerful that he calmed a terrible storm! We even learned that Jesus fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish!

Wow, Jesus is all-powerful! Have the children make muscles and say, “Jesus is all-powerful!” Today, we will see how Jesus shows his power again to his disciples. Over and over again, Jesus shows us that he is with us and he wants us to have faith in him.

The Bible tells us that one night, Jesus’ disciples go down to the Sea of Galilee. There, they get into a boat and head across the lake towards Capernaum. It is dark, and Jesus is not with them. The disciples have rowed the boat for about three miles and are far from land. (Pretend to row a boat.) A strong wind is blowing, and they are fighting heavy waves. (Rock back and forth.)

Early in the morning, Jesus goes out to the disciples. They look up and see Jesus coming towards the boat. He is walking on the water! Can a person do that on their own? No way! We would sink down into the water, wouldn’t we? The disciples don’t know what to think! They are terrified and cry out in fear, “It’s a ghost!” But Jesus speaks to them, “Do not fear! I am here!” Peter, one of the disciples, asks Jesus, “Lord, is it you? If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.” Jesus replies, “Come!”

So Peter gets out of the boat and walks on the water towards Jesus! But when Peter sees the wind, he is afraid and begins to sink. He cries out, “Lord! Save me!” Right away, Jesus reaches out his hand and catches Peter. Jesus then says to him, “Your faith is so small! Why did you

doubt me?" When they climb into the boat, the wind dies down. Then, those in the boat worship Jesus! They say, "You really are the Son of God!" Again, Jesus showed his disciples they could have faith in him. He was showing them that he is God and he is all-powerful. He is the one who would conquer sin and death! He is the creator and provider of every good thing! Jesus isn't saying we should walk on water. He wants us to have faith in him and his power to get us through anything and everything. He created us and loves us. He wants to have a relationship with us. Because God is perfectly holy, he can have nothing to do with sin. That is why he came to rescue us—so we can have a new life now and have life forever with him. He wants to be with us, but we have to choose to follow him instead of choosing to follow the world and what we want. God knows what we need because he created us. Let's pray and thank him for loving us and knowing what is best for us.

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Thank you, Father, for being all-powerful. Help us to see that we can trust you with our lives. You take care of us and want what is best for us. We love you. Amen.

Walking on the Water

Supplies:

Worksheet (one per child)

Roll of blue cellophane or bag of blue cellophane scraps (one-two per bin)

Glue sticks

Crayons

Give each child a worksheet and use a crayon to trace his/her feet below the verse. Then, give the children scraps of blue cellophane and have them glue the scraps under the feet to represent Jesus' walking on water. Remind them that Jesus didn't say we should walk on water, but he does want us to have faith in him and his power to get us through anything and everything. Take some time to remind children of the miracles we've talked about the past few weeks.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn't matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children's hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

- 1. What did the disciples see that made them afraid?** (They saw a man walking on water.)
- 2. Who was walking on the water?** (Jesus.)
- 3. Who walked on the water to meet Jesus?** (Peter.)
- 4. What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the storm around him?** (He began to sink.)
- 5. Why did Peter begin to sink?** (He was afraid of the wind and the waves. He did not have faith/belief that he could do this.)
- 6. What did Jesus do for Peter when he showed little faith and began to doubt?** (Jesus reached his hand out right away and caught him.)

Walk By Faith

Supplies:

Blue sheet/blanket (one per bin)
Blocks and other toys or chairs to set up the obstacle course
Bandana (one per bin)

Set up a small obstacle course and lay out a blue sheet on the floor. Let the children take turns walking on the “water” and going through the obstacle course, stepping over, under and around things. Ask them if they believe they can make it through the obstacle course without being able to see where they are going. Then, have them go through the course with the blindfold on as you help to guide them so they don’t get hurt. Talk to them about how we cannot trust ourselves and what we can see around us, but we can trust God and know that he can see everything and knows what is best. We can have faith that when God asks us to do something like he asked Peter, he will help us. He is all-powerful. Tell them that Jesus isn’t saying we should walk on water. He wants us to have faith in him and his power to get us through anything and everything.



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