LESSON 8: WALKING ON THE SEA

AIM: To show that Jesus uses miracles to increase our faith in Him.

MEMORY VERSE: They worshipped Him saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” (Matthew 14:33)

Suggested Presentation:
Draw waves on white card and tape a flap of blue cellophane over the top for effect.
Children to write memory verse on the waves.

STORY: Matthew 14:25-33

Commence the story by first reviewing Lesson 4, “Feeding the Five Thousand”, because this lesson follows straight after this incident.

The “Mr Potato” Game can be an exciting framework for a review session. Two light brown, clean, dry potatoes and a black felt pen are needed. Divide the group into two teams. When a child answers one of your questions correctly, he may add one facial feature to his team’s potato (eye(s), eyebrow(s), nose, mouth, ear(s), hair). The team that finishes its face first or have the most features, wins.

Today’s story took place straight after Jesus miraculously fed the five thousand people from the five small loaves and two fish. Jesus wanted some time alone so He could pray to His Heavenly Father, so He told the disciples to get into their boat and sail to the other side of the lake.
DISCUSSION:
Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine the scene - being in a boat during a wild storm, the night would have been cold and dark, and the disciples probably very tired. How would the disciples have felt when they saw a figure walking towards them on the water? Remind the children that the disciples thought Jesus was still on the mountain praying.

In fact, the Bible tells us that they were terrified. They thought the figure was a ghost and they began to scream with fear. But Jesus called out to them, “Don’t be afraid, I am here with you.” However, in the midst of their panic and the howling wind, they were not sure if it was really Jesus. So Peter said, “Lord, if it really is you, tell me to come to you on the water.” Jesus told him to come, so Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water just like Jesus. Peter was doing well until he took his eyes off Jesus and began to worry about the wind and waves, and it was not long before he began to sink down into the water crying out for Jesus to save him.

At once, Jesus reached out His hand and caught Peter and took him safely into the boat. As soon as they were in the boat, the wind stopped blowing and the sea became calm. All the disciples were amazed at what had happened and they knelt down at Jesus’ feet, worshipping Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God!”

PERSONAL APPLICATION:
Ask the children what they can learn from this story that will help them in their Christian life. Some suggestions could include:
1. We should pray just as Jesus did.
2. Jesus can do all sorts of miracles.
3. We can trust Jesus to take care of us because He loves us.
4. Jesus is watching us and caring for us at all times.
5. When things go wrong, we should not be afraid but keep looking to Jesus to help us.
6. We should have faith in Jesus at all times.

GAME: Blindfold Obstacle Course
The aim of this game is for the blindfolded person to trust and obey the instructions given by the guide.

Divide the group into pairs, one to be blindfolded, the other to be the guide. The blindfolded child stands at the beginning of the course and the guide at the end. Set a time limit of 2 or 3 minutes, and the guide must bring his/her partner through the course by giving verbal instructions. Supervise the game carefully to prevent injury and to ensure the blindfolded person moves slowly.
The DISCIPLES' BOAT

Materials
- Fun Foam in various colors
- For each child—
  - one drinking straw
  - one 1-inch (2.5-cm) thick household sponge

Standard Supplies
- felt pens
- glue
- hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- scissors
- hole punch
- ruler

Preparation: Cut corners off one end of each sponge (sketch a). In the center of sponge, use tip of scissors to poke a hole large enough for the straw to fit into (sketch a). Cut Fun Foam into 4x6-inch (10x15-cm) rectangles—one for every two children. Then cut rectangles in half diagonally to make two sails (sketch b). Cut additional Fun Foam into small shapes (squares, strips, triangles, etc.). Plug in glue gun out of reach of children.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:
- Use felt pens to decorate sail.
- Glue Fun Foam shapes onto sail for additional decoration.
- With teacher's help, punch a hole at the top and the bottom of sail (sketch c).
- Insert straw through the two holes for the mast. Pull sail to top of straw (sketch d).
- Have teacher use hot-glue gun to glue bottom end of straw into sponge hole (sketch d).

Enrichment Ideas: Teacher writes “Jesus Loves Me!” on a piece of Fun Foam for child to glue onto sail. Provide large containers of shallow water or a water table in which children sail their boats.

Bible Bits: (Katie), you were patient while you waited for the teacher to glue the sail to your boat. Jesus wants us to be patient with other people. When we are patient with each other, we are showing love to them. Where will you float your boat?
Jesus told His disciples to go ahead of Him by boat across the Sea of Galilee, while He sent away the crowds that had come to hear Him. When everyone had gone, Jesus went a little way up the mountain to pray by Himself.

That evening a strong wind began to blow, and the boat carrying the disciples was tossed about by the huge waves. The harder they struggled to get to shore the more the strong winds blew the little boat farther out to sea. In distress, Jesus walking on the water to reach them. Knowing they were surface of the them.

As they saw Him approach through the darkness, they thought He was a ghost, and Jesus said, 'Don't be afraid, it's Me.' If it's really you, Lord, let me walk water', said Peter. Jesus. Jumping over the side, steps across the lake, but when he looked down at the waves swirling beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and began to sink. He cried out, 'Master, save me!' Jesus immediately reached down and grabbed Peter's hand. 'Where's your faith? Why did you doubt Me?' asked Jesus.

Then He went with Peter into the boat. At once, the wind died down and the waves grew calm. The disciples, filled with awe, said to Jesus, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'
JESUS WALKS ON WATER
Matthew 14:22-23, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21

Can Jesus walk on top of the water?

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_________________________________________________________________

Why did Peter walk part of the way then begin to sink?

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_________________________________________________________________

What does this message say to you?

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_________________________________________________________________
IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus began to walk across the water. Nearer and nearer He came to the helpless boat.

Can you help Jesus reach the boat by traveling through the watery maze?
BOAT BOOKMARK

Materials
- Boat and Fish Patterns
- yarn

Standard Supplies
- photocopier
- white card stock
- felt pens
- craft glue
- scissors
- ruler

Preparation: Cut yarn into 10-inch (25-cm) lengths—one for each child. Photocopy Boat and Fish Patterns onto card stock—two of each for each child.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:
- Using felt pens, color the front and back of Boat and Fish Patterns.
- Cut out patterns.
- Glue the back and front of boat together, with covered sides out and one end of yarn in between.
- Glue the two sides of fish together with the other end of yarn in between.
- Allow glue to dry before using your bookmark.

Bible Bits: What did Peter say to Jesus when Jesus told him to put out his fishing net again? ("Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." [Luke 5:5.] What happened then? (Peter caught so many fish, the net broke.) Peter recognized then that Jesus was from God. He left everything to follow Jesus and became His disciple.
A disciple woke Jesus up.

“Master,” he shouted, “please save us. Can’t you see we are going to drown?”
Why did Peter start sinking?

Look up in MATTHEW 14 v. 30....
Because ______________________

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