

Alley Rundown—July 10th-12th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: One Step at a Time (Peter Walks on Water) • Matthew 14:22-33

Today's Key Question: What distracts you from focusing on Jesus?

Today's Bottom Line: Stay focused on Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Hey everyone! So good to see you here today! We are about to get things started with a game to get you in the groove, literally. How is your sense of rhythm? Well, we're about to find out!”

NOTE: This game will work best if it's led by someone who can create and keep rhythms.

“In just a second, I'll make a rhythm with my hands and feet—hand claps, foot stomps, snaps, that sorta thing. We'll start out pretty simple and get more complicated as we go. Your challenge? Stay focused and copy the rhythm! Don't lose the beat. If you do, you'll need to sit out. The winner will be the last person still making a beat!”

Leader begins with a simple rhythm of claps to get everyone involved. Add in different beats, then stomps, then snaps. Speed up to make it more difficult. Keep encouraging them to “Stay focused!” Announce a winner.

Ideas for Rhythm Combinations:

- 1. Clap, Stomp, Snap, Stomp, Clap, Snap*
- 2. Stomp, Stomp, Snap, Clap, Snap, Clap, Stomp*
- 3. Clap, Clap, Clap, Snap, Stomp, Stomp, Snap, Clap*
- 4. Snap, Stomp, Snap, Stomp, Clap, Stomp, Clap*
- 5. Snap, Clap, Stomp, Stomp, Snap, Snap, Clap*
- 6. Combine 1 and 2*
- 7. Combine 3 and 4*
- 8. Combine 4 and 5*
- 9. Combine 1, 2 and 3*
- 10. Combine 3, 4, and 5*

“(After the game) Okay, take a breather! That was some intense focusing. You all did great! Let's get started with our talk today!”

“Good to see you all. July is already off to a great start! As we jump in, I need a volunteer to help me out!”

Communicator calls up a volunteer.

Supplies Needed: Inflated and Tied Balloons (1 per Service)

“Good to see you. Really quick, can you just keep this balloon up in the air without letting it drop to the floor?”

Volunteer starts hitting balloon.

While the volunteer focuses on keeping the balloon up in the air, ask a series of distracting questions. When the volunteer walks away to get the balloon, say things like, “Woah hold on, I’m still talking to you!” Ask questions like the following (but feel free to base them on the volunteer you chose).

“So, how’s your summer going? What have you been up to? What do you think about the weather? Do you like swimming? What’s your favorite place to swim? Who’s your best friend? What do you like to do for fun? Do you have a hobby? What’s your hobby?”

“(After the volunteer has dropped the balloon or after a while of asking questions) OK, one more question. Is it hard focusing when I’m asking all these questions?”

Volunteer answers and then sits down.

“Of course, it is! Let’s be honest. This game can be a lot like life. Life is full of distractions.”

“We need to study, but we get distracted by a TV show. We need to practice for a dance or sport, but we get distracted by a video game. We need to focus on cleaning up our rooms, but we end up distracted with book we found or LEGO® set we forgot about. I’m sure all sorts of moments come to mind when you need to focus but keep getting distracted. But have you ever thought about focusing and being distracted when it comes to following Jesus?”

“That’s an interesting thought, huh? How do you focus on following Jesus? And if you can, what sorts of things would distract you anyway? Well, this summer as we’re thinking about confidence and pressing play on our relationship with Jesus, these are important questions for us to consider. Thankfully, we have some moments recorded for us in the Bible that can help. Let’s take a look at this week’s episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:30)

“You know what’s interesting? Sometimes we hear this story and start to think negatively of Peter. We might even think we could do better. But think about this: Peter must have been so focused on Jesus to be willing to step out of the boat in the first place!”

“I don’t think there are a lot of people who would have done what he did. I mean, of the 12 disciples, he was the *only* one we see out there, right? He only began to struggle when he lost sight of Jesus and focused on the challenges around him.”

“Now, we probably aren’t stepping out of any boats, but we are still trying to follow Jesus. And following Jesus can be hard at times. Remember, it is not like that simple road in the middle of nowhere.”

“We are always surrounded by challenges and distractions. Our family might have trouble getting along. Or maybe someone we love gets sick. Or something doesn’t go the way we expected. These are real situations that can take our focus away from Jesus. And when we focus on them, we feel like we are starting to sink. But remember, Jesus is there, waiting with open arms. And like the disciples acknowledged when He got back in the boat, Jesus really is the Son of God. He can be trusted, no matter what.”

“Today as you head to Small Group, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question Slide

“**What distracts you from focusing on Jesus?** What else can you think of that we discussed earlier? Was anything shared with the whole group that really connected with you? You’ll have chance to talk with your Small Group about of this, so don’t worry if you can’t think of something off the top of your head. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank Jesus that we can be confident and trust Him with our whole life.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering, you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri
New Lenox: Daniel
Homer Glen: Victor