

City SG—July 10th-12th, 2021

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

Today's Bottom Line: Stay focused on Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6 (*NIRV*)

1. Opening Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to create a complicated sound or dance sequence. For examples: la-la-la, boom-zoom-zoom-boom, zap-tap-tap-zap; or Floss, Carlton, Floss, Dab, Floss.
- Feel free to create a dance sequence with moves from your childhood!
- Invite the kids to take turns standing in front of the group and sharing their made-up sequence as fast as they can.
- Ask the group to repeat the sequence each kid creates.
- Play until everyone has had a turn.

What You Say:

"It was fun to watch you imitate the sequences! It was really difficult to remember the sequence, wasn't it? You had to stay super-focused to repeat it correctly."

2. Fold It! Say It!

What You Need: "Folding Verse" Activity Pages (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Folding Verse" Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to look at their Activity Page and recite the verse a few times.
- Instruct the kids to place their verse on the floor.
- Tell the kids that when you say GO!, they should start dancing/jogging on their paper **WITHOUT TEARING IT UP**. If they step off the paper while the music plays, they are out for that round.
- After 30 seconds, yell STOP!.
- Ask the kids to pick up their paper and read the verse again.
- Instruct the kids to make a backward fold on the dotted line marked "Fold 1."
- Direct the kids to place the folded paper back on the floor.
- Challenge kids to dance again when you say GO!, but to try to stay on the paper even though it's smaller than it was before.
- After 30 seconds, yell STOP!.
- Ask the kids to pick up their verse and recite the verse without unfolding the paper.
- Instruct the kids to fold the verse on the dotted line marked "Fold 2" and place the folded paper back on the floor.
- Continue in this way until the Activity Page is folded on all of the dotted lines.
- The kid who can dance on the smallest piece of the verse, wins!

What You Say:

"Our memory verse this month says that God will complete the good work He started in us. This means that He has plans for you and me that He wants to accomplish. His plans are good and perfect. It's one reason why we need to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus**, so He can help us make wise choices and avoid distractions. I can't wait to see the plans God has for you!"

3. Memory Verse Toss

What You Need: Memory Verse Phrase Cards (2 sets per Group), Bible marked at Philippians 1:6, bean bags (2 per Group), floor tape

What You Do:

- Select a volunteer to open the marked Bible to Philippians 1:6.
- Read the verse out loud to the group.
- Split your group into two teams.
- Set out the “Memory Verse Phrases” cards on the floor in a grid pattern, one grid for each team.
- Tape a line a couple of feet away from each team’s grid.
- Instruct the teams to line up behind their tape line.
- Give the first kid in line a bean bag.
- Encourage the kids to focus as they take turns tossing the bean bag to land on one of the memory verse phrases, collect that card, and hand the bean bag to the next teammate in line.
- Once all cards have been collected, challenge the teams to put the phrases in memory verse order.
- Direct the groups to sit down to signal they are finished.
- The first team to get their verse in order, wins!
- Read the verse together one more time for review.

What You Say:

“We can put all our confidence, all of our trust in Jesus! He is strong and steady. No problem is too big for Him. He will help us trust Him every day as we remember to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus!**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Sticky notes, markers

What You Do:

- Pass out a sticky note and a marker to each kid.
- Instruct the kids to write “JESUS” in large block letters on their sticky note.
- Encourage the kids to take their notes home as a reminder to *focus* on Jesus this week.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Following Jesus is something we need to do every day! We need a reminder to help us **[Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus**. Take these notes home and stick them in a spot directly across from your bed so you will see it each morning when you first wake up!

“Do you remember some of the things we listed earlier as ways to focus on Jesus? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, we focus on Jesus when we read our Bibles, when we do our GodTime cards, when we pray, when we talk to others about Jesus, and when we make choices that show we follow Him—like being kind and generous. There are lots of ways to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus**. Let’s pray.

“God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your one and only Son. Help us do what Peter did when he stepped out of the boat. We want to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on Jesus!** We love You, God. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”