

Family Worship Response Elementary

Purpose:

When Peter was walking on the water with Jesus, he got distracted by the storm and took his eyes off of Jesus. Because of this, he sank. But when he yelled, "Lord, save me!" Jesus rescued him. Jesus was near—only an arm's length away.

We all go through struggles and challenges. Sometimes the problems in our lives make us feel like we're drowning, and we need somebody to save us. But we can have faith that even though life is difficult, Jesus is right there with us.

Worship Response is a time for your children to spend with God. Give them space to talk to God.

Supplies:

- Worship Music
- Prayer Journal or scrap paper
- Pen

Activity: *Cue music.*

- Have your kids spread out and find comfortable spots where they can sit or lie on their backs and close their eyes.
- Tell them to think about situations in their lives that are hard for them. Then ask them to imagine Jesus standing with them, right next to them.
- Encourage them to reach out their hands to Jesus in worship. Explain that sometimes physically reaching out in worship can increase the heart's willingness to praise God.
- Encourage the kids to ask God to be near.

Family Discussion

Elementary

God Statement: Jesus is Near

Family Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Blessing: May you know that God is near you in hard times. May He give you patience, peace, and joy, and may your faith grow as you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

Lesson: Jesus walking on water.

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-36; John 6:16-21

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think the disciples felt in the middle of the storm? Matthew 14:24 (Afraid, alone, worried)
2. How would you have felt if you had been Peter stepping out onto the water? Matthew 14:28-29
3. Why did Peter start to sink? Matthew 14:30 (because he took his eyes off Jesus and look at the storm and got scared so he doubted Jesus.)
4. If you had been in Peter's shoes, would you have walked on water to Jesus? Matthew 14:29
5. How does God help us in hard times? 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (God comforts us)
6. How did Jesus serve Peter though this situation? Matthew 14:31 (Jesus grabbed Peter's arm to save him from sinking)
7. How does God strengthen us in times of fear or uncertainty? Isaiah 41:10 (By promising to be with us always)
8. Does anyone want to share a story about experiencing God being near? Tell us about it.

Family Activity

Elementary

Jesus is Near: Family Vision Test

Verses: Hebrews 4:14-16, "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Purpose: When we think about the nearness of Jesus one of the most important applications is clarity. By this we mean because Jesus is near, we can see Him to be true and His promises sure. Jesus is not merely a faraway concept to be pondered, He is the living incarnate Son of God who seeks relational intimacy. Jesus can be near to us in times of joy, sorrow, grief, hurt, pain, success, betrayal, fear, temptation and victory because he endured all these things in His time on earth and remained true to the will of the Father. The activity below is designed to create a teaching opportunity for families regarding this idea.

Supplies Needed:

-Printed promises of God. See below.

Instructions:

- Begin this activity by having your children sit on one side of the room. You want to create enough space for them to not be able to read the sheet immediately.
- Stand across the room from them holding the sheet at eye level.
- Ask if anyone sitting can read anything on the sheet; have them just try to identify words or sentences. After they cannot identify everything ask why. Discuss the need to be close to see. We recommend getting two feet closer each time so the idea of needing to be close to read really hits home.
- Because the text on the sheet is different sizes, they will hopefully be able to read various things at different stages.
- As each promise is read, take any needed time to discuss the gravity of these promises Jesus made with His people.
- Once you are close enough for your family to read every promise, talk about the importance of knowing and trusting Jesus is near gives us clarity to see and believe His promises.

"Promises of Jesus Sheet" found on next page.

Jesus gives strength: Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Jesus provides: Psalm 34:10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Jesus gives light in darkness: John 8:12 I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Jesus gives eternal life: John 11:25 Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

Jesus gives us wisdom: James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Jesus gives us freedom: John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Jesus gives good gifts: James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Jesus gives us courage: Deuteronomy 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Jesus gives us peace: Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Jesus gives us life: John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."