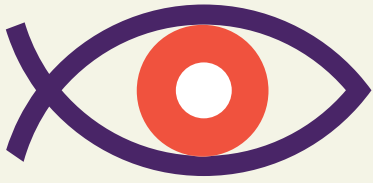


**SEEING
THROUGH
THE EYES OF
JESUS**

**CHILDREN'S
CURRICULUM
SESSION 4**

www.cbf.net/eyesofjesus



SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

Calling us back to
the central focus of
our Christian faith:
**The Risen and
Living Jesus!**

SESSION AUTHOR:
Harrison Litzell

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CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

SESSION 4

THE DANGER OF DISTRACTION

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 14:27-28

CENTRAL MESSAGE:

Jesus reminds us to stay close to Him
and to love others.



GATHERING TIME

Memory Verse: Matthew 14:27-28 (NRSV)

*But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."
Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."*

These activities attempt to give the students a mastery of the verses. The goal is not for them to be able to recite it, but for them to learn the lesson of the verses.

1. Print the main words of the verses on small slips of paper and place them in a bowl or basket. Have a student draw a word from the bowl or basket and have the other students guess it. They cannot act it out or say the word printed on the paper. They must describe the word or use other phrases to direct students to the correct answer. Other students can call out answers as they think of them. (Think "Taboo" rules.)
2. Provide students with paper, pencils/pens, and something to draw with. Allow them to express the images or ideas of the passage in their own way.
3. Have a station with a few chairs where students can gather and talk with one another. (If possible, have a volunteer at this station.) Ask students to think of a different story that teaches the same thing as this story (i.e. A bird learning to fly for the first time and trusting their parents that their wings will work or Abraham having to move to a new country, trusting that God would take care of his family) What is the meaning of these verses, and what is another way they can express it?



QUESTION CONVERSATION

Begin by asking students what they had for breakfast. You can also take a moment to ask about highs and lows for the week or other ways to foster conversation among those in the class.

As you transition to the story, show students pictures of a variety of fruits (apples, citrus, pears, berries, melons, tomatoes, grapes, kiwi, etc.) and have them divide into groups by whether or not they think these items grow on trees, vines or bushes. If students are unsure of how a fruit grows, help them look it up in resource books from the local library or research it on an internet-enabled device.

At the end of the activity, read John 15:1-11 together. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- What does a vine look like?

- If something bad happens to one part of the vine what do you think happens to the rest?
- What happens to the vine if you pull up the roots?
- Why do you think Jesus says he is the vine?
- What does it mean for us to be the branches?
- How do you feel about being connected together through Jesus?

Remind students that the adults are talking about the same story today. Ask them if they are ready for the adult question. (If they are not, or if you think the class would benefit from sitting with the story longer or moving on, you can skip this part.)

The adult question is: What does Jesus mean for us? How would our community be the same or different if there were no Jesus?



ACTIVITIES/ROTATIONS

1. Have students weave vines and branches out of pipe-cleaners. For an extra challenge, see if they can create vines that are strong enough to hold up increasingly heavy objects.
2. Have a computer set up with the YouTube video: www.cbf.net/thegrapevine And have students learn to do the Grapevine!

3. Have a variety of vine-grown fruits laid out for tasting! Make sure to give families a heads-up in the event of allergies. For extra fun, include a chart where students can rank or rate how they liked each one.
4. Time to finish up those dioramas! The memory verse comes from the story in Matthew 14 of Jesus walking on the water and Peter taking his eyes off him before beginning to sink. Students should have been building shoebox dioramas of this scene using a variety of materials.



CLOSING

Before students leave, offer a blessing. If all students leave at the same time, gather together five minutes before leaving and offer it. If students leave one-at-a-time, have them pause at their stations as you offer the blessing before allowing them to work until pick-up.

*God took time to make you of the earth
Jesus came to show how God loves you
and how you can love others
Now, you have the Spirit of God
through the stories of our faith
Among our community
And within you
Go, and love others just as God loves you.*