

Wow

Week 4

BIG IDEA

Wow! Jesus has the power to save.

BIBLE

Jesus Walks on Water: Matthew 14:22–36; Mark 8:31–38

WELCOME

MUSIC | Worship Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, use one of our Spotify playlists to play background music while kids play OR stream the main worship service on your classroom TV to participate in the worship happening in the Auditorium.*

QUESTION | Wat-er you going to do?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This question will be written on the board as a conversation starter during free time.*
 - **What is your favorite thing to do in water?**

LARGE GROUP TIME

INTRO

- Welcome to church today, friends! It is so good to be here with all of you.
- *This month we're in a series called Wow!* We've seen that our world is filled with all kinds of wonders, but none are as wonderful as Jesus! Technology might have helped power our world and make life easier for everyone, but when I think about how Jesus has the **power to heal, calm our fears, and provide**, I can't help but ask, "Is there anything Jesus *can't* do?"
- Today we're doing to discover another very important thing that can only happen through the power of Jesus!
- Water plays an important part in our Bible story today, so I have a question for you before we get started:

- **What is your favorite thing to do in water?** *[Allow a few kids to answer]*
- By now you might have guessed that we are in a bit of a watery situation today!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | On the Water Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to stand. Have kids respond to the following statements by pretending to swim for "yes" and plugging nose for "no"*
 - I can swim.
 - I'd rather go to the beach or a lake than to a swimming pool.
 - I'd rather swim in a pool than at the beach or a lake.
 - I like using floaties when I swim.
 - I am afraid of the deep end of the pool.
 - I have been on a boat before.
 - I like to dive off the diving board.
 - I like going on water slides.
 - I need goggles when I swim.
 - I can hold my breath underwater for more than ten seconds.
 - I think I could be a lifeguard one day.
 - I have needed to be rescued from the water before.
- Wow! You all had a lot of different answers and experiences with water. Now, let's discover what water has to do with today's Bible story.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

(OPTIONAL) VIDEO | Wow!, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *While telling the Bible story in person is preferred, you may choose to play this week's Bible story video and re-cap the story with the script below.*

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 14:22–36 (Jesus Walks on Water)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage or tell the Bible story using the provided script below. If you'd like, dress up (or ask another volunteer) as a quirky researcher named "Scientist Sam". Scientist Sam likes to say "Wow" a lot, and whenever Sam does, encourage kids to make a "W" with three fingers on both hands and hold them up beside their face.*
 - *For the experiment portion, prepare a large shallow dish, some water, black pepper, and dish soap. The pepper represents doubt and the soap represents faith.*
 - *When it's time to illustrate doubt, dip your finger into the peppery water and hold it up to show the kids.*

- *When it's time to illustrate faith, wipe the pepper off your finger, coat it with dish soap, and dip it back into the peppery water. The soap will keep the pepper away from your finger.*
- Wow! Welcome back to my lab! Scientist Sam here, ready to report yet another discovery from the Bible about the most mysteriously powerful power there is! Greater than electromagnetic and gravitational forces combined is . . . the power of Jesus!
- Today's story will defy any scientific law that I've ever studied. And I've studied a lot. Ready to dive in?
- **Let's read Matthew 14:22–36.**
 - **Have you ever floated on the water before?** A lot of us have, and if Jesus had been swimming in the water, I'm not sure this story would be anything out of the ordinary. But this story goes against everything I know about physics and the laws of buoyancy. Buoyancy is the ability to float. And human beings simply *cannot* walk on water. We can't even stand on the water . . . Trust me, I've tried to before. But Jesus did, because he has unlimited power. Wow!
 - Jesus is so powerful that even Peter could walk on the water, too! At least, he did for a second until the wind scared him and he started to sink. And when Peter cried out for Jesus to save him, Jesus reached out and grabbed his hand right away.
- **What do you think will happen if I stick my finger into this dish?**
 - Yes, my finger will get a little peppery, no doubt. Or rather, "yes doubt" — lots of doubt! It's like when Peter was walking on the water.
 - Peter had a lot of faith to just step onto the water in the first place, but then, he began to doubt Jesus when he got distracted by everything going on around him and took his eyes off Jesus. He literally looked away from Jesus and instead, focused on all the things that could go wrong, like this pepper on the water.
- **But what happens when we have faith instead of doubt?**
 - Wow! The pepper just scattered away from my finger! When we have faith in the power of Jesus and look to him to guide us, our fears and doubts will scatter away, too.
- We can always count on the power of Jesus to save us in times of need! Wow!

BIG IDEA | Wow! Jesus has the power to save.

- That reminds me of our Big Idea today!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the Big Idea poster on the white board while you have kids repeat after you.*
- Let's say the Big Idea together: **Wow! Jesus has the power to save.**
- Not long after this happened, Jesus would do something really incredible. It might be hard to imagine that soon Jesus was going to die on the cross. Jesus knew that he would soon face certain death, but to Peter or any of the other disciples, that must have sounded ridiculous. He was Jesus — the Jesus who had the power to do anything!
 - Jesus could heal people and calm storms using only his words. Jesus could take a small amount of food and feed thousands of people with it. Jesus could even walk on water! Surely he could avoid dying!
 - The thing is, he totally could have, but he chose not to. Instead, Jesus chose to die on a cross, even though he did not deserve to. Jesus stuck with God's plan to save the world from the power of sin, to show that the power of God is greater. And if you know how this story ends, you know just how powerful this is . . . Jesus is even more powerful than death.
- So when we say, "**Wow! Jesus has the power to save!**" we're not just talking about a simple water rescue. We're talking about the incredible rescue of our souls. Because of what Jesus

did, we can be saved from anything that tries to separate us from God.

- And once we are saved, our story with Jesus doesn't end there. That's just the beginning. We can then go ahead and tell others about Jesus' awesome power to save!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

- We're working on a new memory verse together this month. Each month, we memorize some of God's word, straight from the Bible because God's word shows us how to live and reminds us of who God is.
- This verse reminds us of God's power and shows us that we can always turn to him. Here's what it says:
 - **"In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to practice the verse a couple times through using the motions provided. Then, have kids sit in a circle and try this word addition activity to practice the memory verse. Start with one kid who says the first word of the memory verse. The next kid has to say the first word and the next word. The kid after that has to now recite the first three words. Keep going until the last person is able to recite all the words of the verse. Repeat with a different starting point in the circle.*
 - **In your hands** (Hold out both hands in front of you.)
 - **Are strength** (Flex right arm.)
 - **And power** (Flex left arm.)
 - **To exalt** (Lifting motion.) This word, "exalt," means to lift up. Can you pretend you are lifting something up as you say this word with me?
 - **And give strength.** (Flex both arms.)
 - **To all.** (Sweep your arms out in front of you from your waist, palms facing up.)
 - **1 Chronicles 29:12b** (clap hands together, then open hands like a book)
- Nice work, friends! When we memorize God's word, we let it live in our hearts and remind us of who God is and what he does.

PRAYER

- Now, we're going to have a chance to talk with our friends in small groups about everything we learned today and ask any questions you might have. Before we do, let's pray together.
 - Wow God, you are powerful! Whenever I feel like I'm sinking because I am hurt, scared, or disappointed, you have the power to save me from my pain, fear, and sadness. Thank you also for loving us so much that you showed us the greatest saving power there is through your son Jesus. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you haven't already, split kids into smaller groups, ideally by grade. Use the following questions to help reinforce the lesson. Invite kids to share any questions they might have.*

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- **How did the disciples respond when they first saw Jesus walking on water?** *They were afraid! They thought he was a ghost.*
- **What did Peter ask Jesus to do in order for him to step out of the boat?** *Peter asked Jesus to tell him to come out onto the water, too.*
- **Why did Peter begin to sink?** *He began to doubt and became afraid.*
- **Read Mark 8:35. What do you think Jesus means when he says that we will save our life when we lose it?** *When we live our lives for God rather than for ourselves, we can count on Jesus to save us.*

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **What are some things that may cause you to be afraid or to doubt?**
- **Why do we need Jesus to save us?**
- **Whom can you tell about the power of Jesus to save us?**

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Review the memory verse, then award prizes to kids that can say the verse from memory.*
- We have a memory verse we're learning together this month.
- This new verse reminds us of God's power and shows us that we can always turn to him. Here's what it says:
 - **"In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Unite kids to practice the verse a couple times through using the motions provided. Then, have kids sit in a circle and try this word addition activity to practice the memory verse. Start with one kid who says the first word of the memory verse. The next kid has to say the first word and the next word. The kid after that has to now recite the first three words. Keep going until the last person is able to recite all the words of the verse. Repeat with a different starting point in the circle.*
 - **In your hands** *(Hold out both hands in front of you.)*
 - **Are strength** *(Flex right arm.)*
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 - **To exalt** *(Lifting motion.)* This word, "exalt," means to lift up. Can you pretend you are lifting something up as you say this word with me?
 - **And give strength.** *(Flex both arms.)*
 - **To all.** *(Sweep your arms out in front of you from your waist, palms facing up.)*
 - **1 Chronicles 29:12b** *(clap hands together, then open hands like a book)*
- Nice work, friends! When we memorize God's word, we let it live in our hearts and remind us of who God is and what he does. You can practice your verse all week long at home, too. Don't forget to take a memory verse card home!