

# CITY LG – Feb 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>

**Bible Story:** Without a Paddle (Peter walks on water) • *Matthew 14:22-33 (Supporting: Matthew 14:13-21)*

**Bottom Line:** When I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears.

**Memory Verse:** “Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.” *Hebrews 11:1, NIV*

**Life App:** Faith—believing in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

*The stage is set for this week’s “Seeing is Believing” experiment. Host walks in dressed as a scientist (lab coat, goggles on head, clipboard). He is carrying the materials for this week’s experiment.*

## Opener

**HOST:** “Hello everyone, and welcome back to another edition of ‘Seeing is Believing!’ I’m Professor [Host’s name] and I’m about to show you something else that will blow your mind! But it’s going to take a little faith on your part. Remember, faith is believing in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

## CG: Faith Slide

“Now, today’s ‘Seeing is Believing’ experiment is not very hard. It actually only has two ingredients. But don’t let its simplicity make you think it won’t be awesome, because this experiment will literally explode with awesomeness!

*Go over to the experiment table.*

“Today’s experiment only requires two ingredients, both available at your local grocery store. The first ingredient is an unopened 2-liter bottle of Diet Coke.

*Hold up 2-liter to “Ooh” and “Ah” sounds. Put it in the center of the kiddie pool (or other container).*

“And the second, important ingredient for this experiment is ... a package of Mentos. *(Striking a pose.)* Mentos: The freshmaker.

*Hold up Mentos to “Ooh” and “Ah” sounds.*

“Now, I’ve heard of people who have done this experiment before, but I’m going to be honest—it scares me a little bit. Okay—a lot of bit! All I have to do is take one of these Mentos and drop it into this bottle of Diet Coke ...

*Start to put the Mentos candy in the bottle but quickly pull back. Note: **Do not actually open the bottle until the Closer.***

"I can't! Maybe if I stand off to the side a little bit.

*Awkwardly try to stand as far away as possible from the 2-liter while holding out the Mentos candy.*

"I'm scared! I believe it will work but I just can't bring myself to do it! (*Dejected.*) You know, I think today's story has something to say about having faith even when you're scared. Maybe that will help me face my fears.

### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** "Hey! What's going on everyone? I'm glad you're here today because we have a great story, and to help me tell the story, I need 6 volunteers. But these volunteers will need to do some acting. SO....in order for me to pick the volunteers who will best be able to portray the important characters in our story I need to see your acting skills. I will ask you to do something and I will walk through the crowd looking for the perfect actors for me story. So, I want to see how you look when you are scared. And not just scared, you are TERRIFIED!...

*Walk through the crowd and pick a kid, bring him/her up to the stage and put the "PETER" sign around his neck*

Ok, now I want to see you walk with confidence. Let me see who can strut their stuff...

*Walk through the crowd and pick a kid, bring him/her up to the stage and put the "JESUS" sign around his neck*

Now, I need 3 kids who can look surprised! You are just amazed at the sight of something...

*Walk through the crowd and pick 3 kids, bring them up to the stage and put the "DISCIPLE" signs around their necks*

Last but not least, this is a very important part of our story, lie down and be completely still...

*Walk through the crowd and pick a kid, bring him/her up to the stage and put the "BOAT" sign around his neck*

**STORYTELLER:** If you were here with us last week, you'll remember that Jesus helped Peter catch a whole net of fish Peter after a tough night of fishing. Peter was so amazed by what Jesus did, that he left everything to follow Him.

"After that day, Peter and the other disciples continued to experience amazing things. But it wasn't always easy. Sometimes, they experienced things that would really test their faith. And that is where our story begins. (*Looks to Kids.*) So, you will each act out your part. Are you ready?

First of all, I need my boat. (To child): Have you ever been in a boat before? Well today you get to BE the boat. I need you to lie down on the stage.

Now Peter and the disciples were in the boat so let's have you three come and kneel down behind the boat.

*Have Peter and the 2 disciples kneel down behind the boat*

**STORYTELLER:** "We good? Let's go!"

*(Read directly from Matthew 14:22.)* 'Right away Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.' (NlrV) After a long day, they were now headed across the sea in a boat."

**STORYTELLER:** "In the meantime, Jesus went up the mountainside to pray by Himself. So climb up onto the mountain and begin to pray, Jesus"

While Jesus was by Himself praying on a mountainside, the disciples had gotten into a bit of trouble. Because it was next to the mountains, storms could arise quickly on the Sea of Galilee. As the disciples crossed the Sea, the wind grew strong and the waves began to pound the boat. Disciples! You are in a riding in a terrible storm!

**STORYTELLER:** "I bet the disciples were REALLY scared! BUT...their fear was nothing compared to what they were about to experience."

*(Read directly from Matthew 14:25.)* "Early in the morning, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake.' (NlrV) *Go ahead Jesus; I am sure you do this every day! GO walk on the lake.*

This is amazing! The disciples had taken hours to fight their way out into the Sea of Galilee and now Jesus is just walking across the lake! They must have been so happy to see Him, right? Wrong!"

**STORYTELLER:** *(Read directly from Matthew 14:26.)* "They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said. And they cried out in fear.'" (NlrV) Let's see you look scared disciples!

"They didn't recognize that it was Jesus. I mean, it's not every day that somebody comes walking across the lake. But then again, this is Jesus we're talking about here. He called out to the disciples: 'Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid!'" *Let's hear it, Jesus...*

"Peter boldly spoke up. If that is really You, Jesus, and not some ghost, tell me to walk out to You." *Good Job Peter*

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus *actually* called Peter to get out of the boat and walk on the water to Him! Can you imagine?! I wonder what was going through Peter's mind. *What if I sink? What if I can't do it?* But you know what is even crazier than what Jesus asked?

### **PETER WALKS ON WATER**

**STORYTELLER:** “Peter did it. He climbed out of the boat, put his feet on top of the water, and began to walk.”

*Peter walks slowly out on the water...*

**STORYTELLER:** “The other disciples looked on as Peter walked across the water. I bet they could hardly believe what they were seeing! But then, something happened.”

**STORYTELLER:** *(Read directly from Matthew 14:30.)* “But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, ‘Lord! Save me!’” *(NirV)* Peter was distracted by the wind and the waves, and he began to sink.”

*Peter starts to sink...*

### **JESUS CATCHES PETER**

**STORYTELLER:** “But look what Jesus did next. *(Read directly from Matthew 14:31)* ‘Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.’” *(NirV)*

“So, Jesus rescued Peter from harm, and then He asked him a pretty tough question. *(Continue reading directly from Matthew 14:31b.)* “Your faith is so small!” he said. “Why did you doubt me?”” *(NirV)*

**STORYTELLER:** “Ladies and gentlemen, please give it up for the our actors today! Thanks for your help, guys.

*Dismiss kids back to their seats*

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “You know, that is a hard question that Jesus asked Peter. ‘Why do you doubt me?’ I don’t think Jesus was trying to make Peter feel bad. I mean, he was the **ONLY** one who got out of the boat and walked across the water to Jesus. I think what Jesus was saying is this: ‘Don’t you think if I can do miracles—like feeding thousands of people with just a little fish and bread or come walking out to your boat across the water—if I can do these things, don’t you think I can handle the wind and the waves? Don’t you think I can help you face the things you are afraid of? You just have to have faith in Me.’

“It’s like our Bottom Line for today.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**STORYTELLER:** *[Impress]* “When I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears. When I experience what God can do then what?????”

*Wait for kids to answer....*

Right!! It helps me face me fears. Let’s try that again, “When I experience what God can do....

**Kids:** It helps me face their fears!!

The more you know someone, the more you can begin to trust that person. And that is true even for the disciples. They were still learning who Jesus was and how to trust Him.

“There are times when we will be afraid. Maybe not because we are walking on water and see the wind and waves around us, but there will be times that we need to trust God with what frightens us. What’s awesome is that God can do anything. We can trust that He will help us through whatever we face! Let’s pray and thank God for being Someone we can trust no matter what.”

### **Prayer**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, there are a lot of things we face in life that can be scary. Sometimes we just don’t know how things will turn out. Please help us to remember the many ways that You have carried us through in the past, so that we can face our fears and trust You. We ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“Earlier, I was saying that all I need to do is stick this Mentos candy into that bottle of Diet Coke. I’ve heard about other people doing it before, but I was just a little afraid. But you know what? I’m ready now. Here goes nothing.

*Put 2-liter in center of kiddie pool and count down 3-2-1, open the Diet Coke bottle, and drop the Mentos candy in. The soda should come streaming out of the top. React as the experiment takes place.*

**HOST:** “It worked! Look at that! It’s a geyser of sugary proportions! Well, there you have it. I wouldn’t have believed these two everyday things could create such an explosion, but sometimes ‘Seeing is Believing!’”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*