

Small Group WEEK 2 June 11/12

ALLEY



Theme: Zapped – Plugging into God’s power helps me see and do what I should.

Bible Story: Peter Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-34)

Bottom Line: I have to keep depending on God’s power in my life.

Memory Verse: God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.
(2 Peter 1:3a NIV)

Catch On: Make the Connection

Make the connection of how today’s Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Sticky Situations

What You Need: Large piece of paper, Post-it Notes, markers

Write “Jesus” in large letters on a large piece of paper. Lay out markers and sticky notes and tell kids to write on the sticky notes things or situations that cause them to be afraid such as spiders or a test at school. Afterward, have them stick the notes under the written name, “Jesus,” as a reminder that when we depend on God’s power, we don’t need to be afraid.

2. Sink or Float?

What You Need: One large plastic tub filled with water prior to kids arriving; one can of diet soda and one can of regular soda per group.

What You Do:

1. Discuss the questions listed before attempting the experiment.
2. Follow the experiment instructions on your Activity Page to perform the “Sink or Float” experiment.

Pre-Experiment Questions

1. What are items that you know will float in water? How do you know they’ll float?
2. What items do you know will sink in water? How do you know they’ll sink?
3. If I place these soda cans in the water, do you think they’ll sink or float? Why?



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Experiment Instructions

1. Have kids gather around the container filled with water.
2. Have a child take a can of regular soda and place it in the water.
3. Then, have a child take a can of diet soda and place it in the water.

What You Say: “The cans of soda are exactly the same size, but their density differs due to what is dissolved in the soda. Regular soda contains sugar as a sweetener—a LOT of sugar, sometimes up to 40 grams. Diet sodas, on the other hand, use artificial sweeteners, and typically less than a few grams of artificial sweetener is used in a can of diet soda. The difference in the amount of dissolved sweeteners leads to a difference in density. Cans of regular soda tend to be more dense than water, so they sink. Cans of diet soda are usually less dense than water, so they float.

“I’ll bet you guys didn’t realize that the amount of sugar in a soda can determines whether it sinks or floats. I guess sometimes sugar doesn’t always give us that “boost” that we think it does!

“Today, we’re going to see how God’s power gave Peter the boost he needed. One thing that’s true for you and for me is that we have access to God’s power. When we have a relationship with God, because of what Jesus did for us, He gives us everything we need to follow Him. But if we stop depending on His power, then that’s when we really get in trouble. **[RECYCLE] I have to keep depending on God’s power in my life.**”

3. Where am I? (*Bible Story Review*)

What You Need: One blindfold for each child in your group; 5 plastic cups.

What You Do:

1. Set up an obstacle course with the cups near your Small Group area.
2. Let each child try to navigate the cups while blindfolded. If they bump or touch one, they’re out.
3. Now, select half the kids to remain blindfolded and the other half to take off their blindfolds and be leaders. Assign each blindfolded child a buddy to lead them through the course by verbally guiding his or her partner with instructions.

What You Say: “Was it easier to navigate the course with or without a partner? What do you think might happen if you’d chosen NOT to listen to your partner—who could see the course when you couldn’t?”

“Peter learned the hard way in our story today that if you take your eyes off Jesus, if you stop depending on His power—you’ll be in big trouble. In Peter’s case, he might have drowned.

“He needed to look to Jesus, to trust in Him to do something he never thought he could—walk on water! God probably isn’t calling us to walk on water or move a mountain, but there are lots of things in the Bible that He DOES ask us to do that are challenging. Doing the right thing, making the wise choice, treating others the way you want to be treated—none of these are easy. But when we depend on God’s power working in us, we can do all those things.”



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4. Pray

What You Need: Nothing.

What You Say: “One of the best ways you can rely on God is to talk to Him about what you need help with. Prayer is a really important part of relying on God. Today, I want you to think of something that you need to depend on God for. I’d like for you to pray on your own and complete this sentence as you pray: ‘God, I’m depending on You for _____.’ In a few minutes I’ll close us all in prayer. But remember, you always have the opportunity, any time, any place, to ask God for help. He always hears you and He is willing to help.

