

# Alley SG - July 14-15, 2018

**Bible Story:** On Top of the Sea (Peter Walks on Water) • *Matthew 14:22-33*

**Key Question:** What distracts you from focusing on Jesus?

**Bottom Line:** Stay focused on Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 1:6, NIV*

## 1. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** JUMBO glasses (2 per group), sticky notes, pens

**What You Do:**

- **Ask** the group to give you an example of something that can be a distraction.
- If needed, **prompt** them with any of the following:
  - You are watching TV; what can distract you from focusing on the show? (*people, noise, etc.*)
  - What distracts you from focusing on your homework? (*Video games, music, daydreams, it isn't fun, etc.*)
  - What can distract you from talking to the new kids in your class? (*Your friends, fear, nervousness, etc.*)
- As kids give examples, **instruct** them to write the distractions on sticky notes.
- **Ask** for a couple of volunteers and put a pair of JUMBO glasses on the volunteers.
- **Tell** kids to gently stick their notes to the lenses of the glasses.
- Once the lenses are covered with sticky notes, **ask**:
  - What do distractions do to your vision? What happens when you can't focus?
  - Can any of the distractions you have on your glasses keep you from focusing on Jesus and having confidence? How?
  - If necessary, prompt kids further—How could other people distract you from focusing on Jesus? Or could music or video games distract you from Jesus? How?

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Paper (3 sheets per kid), Bibles, pens, tape

**What You Do:**

- **Read** the Bible story, Matthew 14:22-33.
- **Ask**:
  - How could Peter walk on water? (*He focused on Christ, he followed Christ, he trusted Christ*)
  - Why did Peter lose focus on Christ? What distracted Peter?
- **Ask** kids to identify one distraction keeping them from focusing on Jesus. Use the ideas from the Take a Snapshot Activity to prompt discussion.
- **Give** kids 3 sheets of paper and **instruct** them to write on the paper 3 distractions (1 per piece of paper) that can keep them from focusing on Jesus.
- **Brainstorm** some ways to overcome distractions and to stay focused on Jesus. (*Pray, read His Word, talk to friends who are Christ followers, listen to worship music and pay attention to the lyrics, memorize Scripture, etc.*)
- **Explain** that kids will make a basketball out of their papers and tape, that they will get to shoot in a trash can.
- **Ask** kids to suggest a way they could focus on Jesus and help eliminate the distraction.
  - After sharing a way to stay focused, **tell** kids to take a shot with their “basketballs” and tell them their distraction has no place in their lives. Go until everyone makes a basket.
- After everyone gets a turn, **review** the examples kids shared of how they could stay focused on Jesus.

### **3. Discussion Questions**

- How do you recognize when you are being distracted? How do you recognize when you aren't focused on Jesus?
- What distracts you from focusing on Jesus? How can you get rid of these distractions or make them less of a distraction?
- Are there times when you feel like it's more difficult to stay focused on Jesus? When is it easy to be focused on Jesus?
- What does it look like to stay focused on Jesus? Are you literally thinking about him 24/7? How do you "do normal life" while also staying focused on Jesus?
- Why do we need to stay focused on Jesus? What's one thing that's better in your life when you're focused on Jesus?

### **4. Verse to Take with You**

**What You Need:** "Focus First Cards" from Activity Pages, Bibles, index cards

**What You Do:**

- **Shuffle** the "Focus First Cards" and lay them out facedown on the floor in a giant grid pattern.
- **Explain** to kids that it's important to be focused to win this game. Encourage them to not get distracted.
- **Guide** kids to play a game of "Focus" with the cards.
  - Kids take turns flipping over two cards trying to match the verse reference with the verse.
  - **Encourage** kids to use the Bible to look up verse references they don't know and get excited if/when they do know some of the verses!
  - Kids can use index cards as bookmarks.
  - To keep things moving quickly, kids get only one turn, even if they find a match.
  - The kid or team with the most matches wins.
- **Let** kids divvy up the cards with full verses printed on them.
- **Encourage** them to take home a verse they can think about this week. Tell them to put the verse in a place they will see it often, such as a bathroom mirror or bedside table.

### **5. Make it Personal with Prayer**

**What You Need:** *Optional:* glasses from the Take a Snapshot Activity

**What You Do:**

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Review** the ways remain focused on Jesus that your group talked about earlier.
- **Give** kids a moment to think about one of the ways they will practice this week to stay focused on Jesus.
- **Pass** around the glasses from the "Take a Snapshot" Activity.
- **Encourage** kids to put the glasses on and ask Jesus to help them stay focused on him by \_\_\_\_\_.
- For example, lead the prayer with:
  - Jesus, I want to be focused on You. Help me to read my Bible every day this week. (Pass the glasses to the kid sitting next to you)

When the glasses return to you, close prayer time by thanking Jesus for always being there for us even when we get distracted.