

THROUGH THE ROOF

Integr8 Youth Activity



PARACHUTE BIBLE STORY

Walking on water

BIBLE VERSES: Matthew:22-33, Mark 6:45-51, John 6:16-21

POINT: We do not need to doubt that Jesus is the Son of God.

TIME: 10 mins AGES: 6+
APPROPRIATE: All abilities
NUMBERS: Minimum 4
EQUIPMENT: Parachute

SET-UP: Parachute out on the floor. People positioned around the edge.

ACTIVITY

Plain text is to be read out loud. Bold text gives directions for the group.

(Choose someone to be Jesus). Jesus was standing at the edge of the lake with his disciples. Jesus told them to get into a boat and go ahead to the other side. **(All climb into the middle of the parachute and lift the edge of the parachute and hold it up at waist height to symbolise a boat).**

Jesus went up the mountainside alone to pray **(To symbolise a mountain, ask 1 person to hold up the middle of the parachute from underneath, while everyone else holds the edge of the parachute low to the ground).**

A strong wind started blowing and the waters became rough **(Everyone flap the parachute)**. Out on the middle of the lake, the disciples in the boat were pulling at the oars **(Everyone hold the edge of the parachute and move it forward and back in a rowing motion)** but the wind was against them and the boat was rocked about by the wind and the waves **(Flap parachute up and down and side-to-side)**. When the disciples had rowed about three miles, Jesus went out to them, walking on the water. **(Everyone flap the parachute and hold it low down to the floor as Jesus walks over it).**

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water they were all scared **(Everybody scream)**. But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid – it is I".

(Choose someone to be Peter) Peter, one of the disciples, said, "Lord if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water". "Come to me", Jesus said.

Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus. **(Peter walks across the flapping parachute).**

When Peter saw the wind and waves he was afraid and began to sink **(Peter walks lower while others flap parachute higher around him)**. Peter cried out, "Lord, save me". Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand **(Jesus holds out a hand)** and caught him and said, "Why did you doubt?"

When they had got back in the boat, all the disciples worshipped Jesus and said, "You really are the Son of God."

Ideas to include all abilities:

If someone in a wheelchair or with mobility difficulties plays the part of Jesus or Peter make sure care is taken when flapping the parachute and they are walking on it. Ensure someone with sight loss is aware what is happening. Give clear instructions so all can hear and maintain eye contact for those with hearing loss. Young people with learning disabilities could benefit from reinforcing key words, or using picture cards. Some youngsters may be anxious about joining in or may drift in and out e.g. those with autism may just enjoy the sensation of the parachute being flapped or may want to lie underneath.



If you have found this resource beneficial, please consider raising funds or making a donation to Through the Roof's integr8 programme to enable more people to benefit from our resources and services.

For further ideas, stories and resources on issues of disability, go to Through the Roof's main and/or Integr8 youth website: www.throughtheroof.org

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