

Family Guide

When the church and family come together to invest in kids, we believe, kids are given the greatest opportunity to build a lasting relationship with Jesus. This guide is meant to help your family further explore the concepts of this week's online kids experience. Spend some intentional time with each other and complete the activities and discussions that are best for your family.



Circle Up

1

Supplies Needed: Random household objects, bowl of water

SAY: In our series, *By The Pool* we're jumping into the water and discovering more about Jesus and how we are meant to live like Him. Jesus spent a lot of His time around water, and who could blame Him? It's so much fun! Today's true story is all about Jesus walking on water and what we can do when we are fearful. In today's Bible story we'll learn that Jesus "floated" on the water while Peter "sank." Let's play a game to see what else can float or sink.

PLAY "Sink or Float"

GATHER a few household items that will sink or float. Some examples are: an egg, a Lego, an apple, a pasta noodle, paperclip, crayon, a leaf, or a small ball. (**Fun Tip:** Have the kids go around the house and collect their own items).

SAY: Let's put these items to the test! You have to decide if they will sink or float. But if you get it wrong, you'll have to do a challenge! Let's play!

TAKE each item and put it in a bowl of water to see if it will float or sink. Whoever gets the answer wrong must do one of the following challenges:

- Go outside and yell "Jesus loves you!"
- Do 10 jumping jacks while singing a song.
- Get a cup of water dumped on their head.
- Attempt to say the alphabet backwards.
- Stand on their toes while dancing during worship.

SAY: That was a lot of fun! When we feel like we're sinking, remember our bottom line: ***Jesus is bigger than my fears!***

Read the Bible

2

Supplies Needed: Bible or Bible App

SAY: We may not be able to walk on water, but I do think water, and Jesus, teaches us an important lesson: Jesus is bigger than my fears! Let's read today's true Bible story and learn how we can trust God with our doubts!

READ Matthew 14:22-33 (**Fun Tip:** Take a field trip and read the Bible story by a local pool or body of water).

SAY: Let's answer these questions together:

- Tell us about a time when your faith was shaky, like Peter's.
- How can you choose to trust Jesus when you're afraid or have doubts?
- How can you comfort others when they're going through a tough time?
- What fears will you trust God with this week?

Let's Practice

3

Supplies Needed: Paper, aluminum foil (or any kind of cooking wrap), pencil, tape, bowl of water (or bathtub).

SAY: Today we learned about the miracle of Jesus walking on water! Only Jesus can do something like that, but we have boats to help us stay afloat on the open waves. Let's make and race our own boats to see who can stay afloat the longest.

GIVE each participant a sheet of paper, aluminum foil (or any kind of cooking wrap), pencil, and tape. Instruct your family to make a boat that will float using only these supplies. Tell them that they will each take turns racing their boat to see who's can stay afloat the longest. (**Fun Tip:** to make it harder give participants a time limit to build their boat). Once everyone has built their boats test them out in a bathtub, sink, or bowl full of water.

Memorize It

4

Supplies Needed: Paper & something to write with

SAY: During this series, we're going to memorize a verse from the Bible. When we think of this verse, it will remind us that Jesus describes Himself as living water and that He is our Savior from sin.

*"But anyone who drinks the water I give them. . . (cup hands)
will never be thirsty. (shake head from side to side)*

*In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them.
(wave hands above head)*

It will flow up into eternal life." (point up)

John 4:14 (open hands like holding book)

WRITE each word (or phrase for younger kids) of the memory verse on a separate sheet of paper.

SAY: Let's play a game called "Follow the Footprints" to practice the verse!

PLACE the verse papers on the ground in number order so that kids can step from one to the next. Allow the kids to "follow the footprints" by stepping on the papers. As they step on each "Footprint", they should say the portion of the memory verse that is on the paper. Play until all kids have had a chance to "follow the footprints."

Let's Pray

5

Supplies Needed: Prayer journal (notebook or peice of paper), pen

SAY: Today we learned that Jesus is bigger than our fears, which means that we can trust that He will always be with us! One way that we can know Jesus is with us is by praying. Let's pray now and ask God to help us remember to always trust in Him!

ASK your family for any prayer requests. Then ask one of the kids to pray. Then pray for the following:

- Thank God for sending His son, Jesus.
- Ask God to help you remember to trust Him this week.
- Pray specifically for the fears in your life and for God to be there with you.

FIND a piece of paper or a notebook to record your family's prayer requests and prayers. Select a different person each week to write what you prayed about as a family. Go back and talk about how God keeps His promises by answering prayers.

Stay Together

6

YOU just made a difference in your child's life by spending intentional time together in God's word! Yay! Here are some ways you can stay connected to Mountain this week:

- Reach out to your Campus Kids Pastor with any questions.
- Remember to stay connected through social media, email, and website updates. Follow our "**Mountain Families**" Facebook Group.

KEEP kids engaged by doing the following activities:

- **SPIN** a fidget spinner or coin and do the following activities until it stops spinning:
 - Make a statue pose and see if they can hold it
 - Hop on one foot
 - Push ups
 - Dance
- **PLAY** "Four Corners":
 - Write the numbers 1-4 on seperate sheets of paper and tape them to different corners of the room. Next, write the numbers on scrap paper and put them in a bowl.
 - Play some music and mingle around the corners until the music stops.
 - Stop the music and have each person pick a corner. Draw a number out of the bowl and whoever is in that numbered corner must sit out.
 - The last person standing is the winner.