

# Children's & Young People's Activity Suggestions, 9 Aug 2020

## 1. Introduction

From the top of my head

*(Touch head)*

to the tips of my toes;

*(Touch toes)*

from the lobes of my ears

*(Touch ear lobes)*

to the end of my nose;

*(Touch nose)*

from my back, to my front

*(Turn round)*

to my wiggly fingers,

*(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)*

God loves me!

*(jump up and down)*

## 2. Telling the Story

Some ideas:

### **Sensory story**

Spread out a large blue cloth on the floor. Gather a toy boat and play figures for the children to hold and explore as you tell the story. If you have them, use rain-makers and musical instruments to create the sounds of the water and weather at the appropriate moments in the story.

### **In the boat**

Act out the story as if you are all sitting in the boat. Use cardboard boxes for the boat sides (ask the children to bob these up and down with the movement of waves), and wave blue material to recreate the movement of the water. Ask a couple of children to act out the parts of Jesus and Peter walking on the water, miming and adding the spoken words that those characters say.

The text:

Straight after feeding the crowd with the fish and bread, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake. He sent the crowds home. When everyone had left, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. He stayed there on his own until evening.

Meanwhile, the boat that the disciples were in was caught in a storm – battered by the waves, far from the shore, with the wind against them. Early the next morning, Jesus came walking towards them on the water. When the disciples saw him they were absolutely terrified! They shouted out in fear, 'It's a ghost!'

But immediately Jesus called to them, 'Be brave! It's me. Don't be afraid.'

Peter called out in reply, 'Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come and meet you on the water.'

'Come!' called Jesus. So Peter climbed out of the boat and began to walk across the water to Jesus. All was going well until Peter began to notice the strong wind and got frightened.

He started to sink and cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him.

'Why didn't you trust me?' he asked Peter.

When they got back into the boat and sat down the wind died down. This made everyone in the boat worship him saying, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

### 3. Reflection

Think of a time when you were asked, or asked someone else, to do something on their own for the first time. (Equally, you might prefer to think of an occasion when you decided *for yourself* to take a risk.)

Why did you do it?  
How did it make you feel?  
How did you feel afterwards?  
Did you do it again?

The Gospel reading is a bit like this...

Why does Jesus send the disciples off on their own?  
Why on earth would Peter decide to launch out onto the water on foot?  
What did Peter and the disciples learn?

Look at the story again...

When, exactly, do the disciples become afraid?  
When does Peter start to sink?  
What might we learn from this?

Thinking beyond this passage...

Where else do we hear phrases like this?  
'Early in the morning';  
'Do not be afraid';  
'It is a ghost';  
'Come';  
'Lord, save me';  
'Truly you are the Son of God'

What does this story teach us – or remind us – about Jesus?

#### 4. Activity ideas

Make  
3D Peter pictures

Create a visual reminder of Peter's act of courage

**You will need:** paper, pens/pencils, glue, wooden lolly sticks, pipe cleaners.

- Draw an image of the disciples' boat and Jesus walking on the water towards them.
- Help everyone to use glue to attach lolly sticks to look like the timber of their boat and pipe cleaners to fashion a Jesus figure to glue on.
- Invite the children to use pens/pencils to add other details to the picture.

## DIY lava lamp

Explore intentionally spending time with God

**You will need:** empty plastic bottles or glass jars, warm water, glitter glue, gel food colouring, glitter.

- Help the children to fill the containers a third full with water, then add glitter glue and stir, followed by three drops of gel food colouring.
- Encourage the children to carefully add some glitter. The quantity you need depends on how dark you want the liquid to look. Stir until well combined and top up with water, leaving enough room for the mixture to move around.
- Screw the lids on tightly and invite the children to shake their container, and then spend time talking to God as they watch their glitter settle.

## Pray

Stepping over doubt

Ask God to help you overcome doubt

**You will need:** length of blue cloth, card 'stones', pens.

- Ask the children to think about the things that might hold them back from knowing and trusting Jesus.
- Write their answers on card 'stones', and lay these on the blue cloth to form a path across the 'water' with the writing facing up.
- Pray together about the doubts and worries written on the cards. Gradually invite the children to turn the stones over one by one as they pray over them, and walk across to the other side of the 'sea' cloth.

## Taking a risk

Get into the habit of turning to God when taking a risk

- Beforehand, think of situations that feel like stepping out and taking a risk, e.g. starting a new hobby, crossing a busy road, inviting someone to play with you at school or nursery.
- Ask children them to think of any examples of risk-taking (suggest your ideas too), and ask them what they might say to God in that situation, e.g. please help me to be brave, help me to be wise, please keep me safe when crossing the road, etc.).
- After each suggestion, invite the children to say a one-line prayer and all join in with **Amen.**

## 5. Further Inspiration

Visit

<https://www.assemblies.org.uk/sec/2840/putting-out-into-the-deep> or

<https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/30/overcoming-fears>