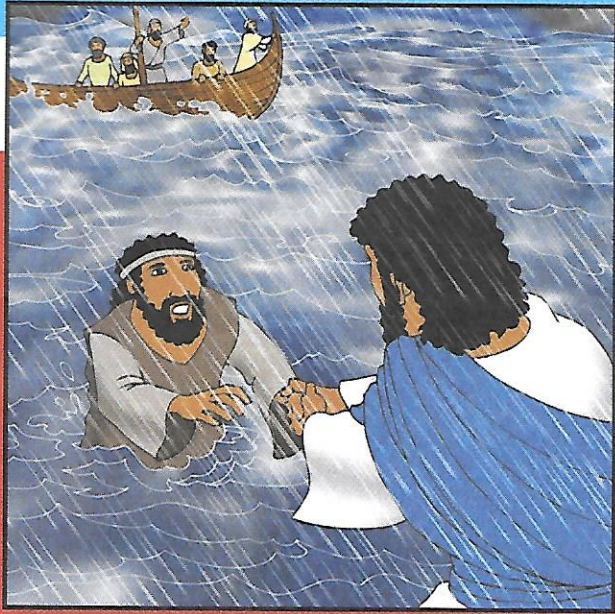


June 27, 2021

BIBLE LESSON

4



KEY VERSE: Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught [Peter]. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31)

"Why Do You Doubt?"

Lesson Scripture: [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

God's Word

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. **23** After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, **24** and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. **25** Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. **26** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. **27** But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." **28** "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." **29** "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. **30** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" **31** Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" **32** And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. **33** Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Bible Story

“Why Do You Doubt?”

Matthew 14:22-33

In the events of today’s Scripture text, it had been a long day. Jesus had been teaching. He also performed a miracle—feeding five thousand people. At the end of the day, Jesus told the disciples to go find their boat and go to the other side of the lake. When everyone left, Jesus went up the mountainside by Himself to pray. By the time Jesus finished praying, it was very early in the morning.

When He came down from the mountain, the boat was far away. The disciples were having trouble steering the boat because of the waves and winds. Jesus began walking on the water toward them. When they saw Him, they were afraid; they thought He was a ghost and began to cry out. To calm the disciples, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Do not be afraid—have courage.” Peter spoke first, saying, “Lord, if that is really You, then tell me to come to You on the water.” Jesus did as Peter requested. So, Peter got out and began to walk toward Jesus. Peter then became afraid and took his eyes off Jesus. When he did this, he began to sink. He cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately grabbed Peter and caught him.

Jesus said, “Your faith is small. Why did you doubt?” When Peter and Jesus were in the boat, the wind calmed down. The other disciples worshipped Jesus, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God!”

Stay Focused

(Part 1)

For the past six months, B.J.’s younger sister, Nova, had been asking him to teach her how to dive off the diving board. It is all they talked about as their mom drove them to the YMCA.

“B.J., don’t forget that today is the day you promised to teach me how to dive,” Nova reminded him.

“I know,” B.J. answered. “As soon as I finish with my swimming laps, I promise I’ll find you.”

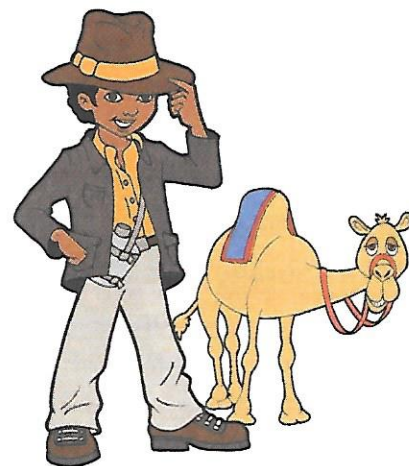
“You won’t have to look far. I’ll be waiting by the lifeguard ladder,” Nova commented excitedly.

“The first rule—according to the list my swimming instructor gave me—is this: ‘Keep your eyes on the target,’” B.J. explained.

“What happens if I look away?” Nova asked with concern.

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! Have you ever tried diving into a pool from a diving board? It’s fun . . . but it can also be a little scary. How would you answer Nova’s question: “What happens if you look away”? In today’s Bible lesson, Peter took his eyes off Jesus. When he did, he began to sink! Have you ever taken your eyes off a goal or target you had? What happened?



Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Stay Focused

(Part 2)

"A big SPLASH," B.J. answered with a quickness.

"I've seen those. I thought they were done on purpose," Nova responded.

"Not exactly. When diving, you want the smallest splash possible when you enter the water. When that happens, your diving technique is 'on point,'" B.J. explained.

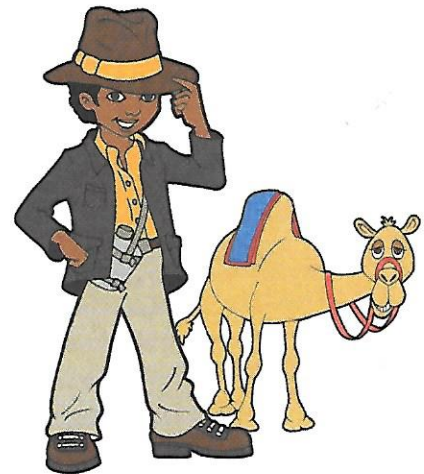
"How will I know what the target is?" Nova asked.

"You know those orange life buoys they have around the pool? I'll put one in the water and your job is to get as close to that as possible," B.J. replied.

"So, what you're saying is that if I keep my eyes on the buoy and stay focused, I'll be okay?" Nova inquired.

"That's right, Li'l Sis. Now let's go," B.J. said.

B.J. shared that when he's diving and he takes his eyes off the goal, he makes a big splash. I think that might have happened to Peter in today's Bible story. He started out with his eyes on Jesus, then he got distracted by the winds and the waves. There have been times when I looked at the situation around me and have been distracted just like Peter. This week, don't worry about the distractions. Stay focused!



A "Stay Focused" Crossword Puzzle

Use the following clues to fill words from today's lesson into the crossword puzzle.

Across

- 2 The name of the disciple that wanted to go out on the water
- 4 Jesus asked, "Why did you _____?"
- 6 As soon as Jesus got into the boat the water became _____.
- 7 When the disciples first saw Jesus, they were _____.

Down

- 1 Peter started to sink when he took these off Jesus.
- 2 Jesus was not on the boat because He was _____ by Himself.
- 3 When Peter first started to walk on water he had lots of this.
- 5 The disciples were in a _____ when they saw Jesus.

