

## Faith At Home

Welcome to the first of three "Faith at Home" resources based on material by WOW VBS. Each week we will be sending your family a pdf like this one with a theme word, memory verse, Bible story, family devotion, and family activities.

The word of the week is **COURAGE!**

### Overview

**Key Word:** Courage The ability and will power to endure difficulty even when you are afraid.

**Message:** God Gives Us Courage!

**Memory Verse:** "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9b NIV

### Bible Story

Paraphrased from Matthew 14

Jesus comes to the disciples walking on water in the storm. When the waves are high, and the next step feels impossible, Jesus reaches out his hand. It had been a very long day. Jesus sent the disciples in their boat across the lake. Jesus went up into the mountains to pray, and when he finished, it was late at night.

The disciples were far out at sea. So Jesus began walking on water to meet the disciples in their boat. When he got close to the boat, the disciples were afraid. The disciples were terrified. They thought it was a ghost. Then Jesus said, "it's all right, have courage, I'm here. Don't be afraid."

Peter said, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you." "Come," said Jesus. Peter stepped onto the water and started walking to Jesus. He was walking on water. Then Peter looked at the wind and the water. He began to be afraid. He started to sink. He cried out, "Lord save me." Jesus reached out his hand, and he said, "Peter, you have such little faith. Why did you doubt me?" Then Peter and Jesus walked and got inside the boat. Everyone was amazed. They began to worship Jesus. They all said, "Truly, you are the son of God."

## Family Devotional

We read the story of Peter stepping out of a boat onto the waves with Jesus.

That takes some serious courage! ....but in Matthew 14:30, something interesting happens. Peter has pulled up the courage to step his whole self out of the safety of the boat, but then...he looks around. He sees the towering waves, hears the bellowing winds, and he begins to sink.

"Lord, save me!" he shouted. And immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. You see, courage doesn't have to mean we are not afraid. It doesn't mean that we put blindfolds on and just forget about all the scary things that are happening. Instead, courage for those who believe in Jesus means that we know that He is with us.

All the time.

Every day.

Every moment.

And He will never leave.

As a family, can you think of other people from the Bible who required courage?

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Talk about times when you've needed to have courage. Did you feel like you were sinking into the waves? Did you want to stay in the boat? Talk about your experiences together.

The memory verse for "courage" is from Joshua 1:9. This is a verse we have done a few times at the church to a song by Group. We have included a link in the email to the YouTube video.

## **Walk on Water – Family Game**

What if we could WALK ON WATER, too?? Let's play a game like we can! Take a couple of cushions or pillows to a room with a lot of floor space, or if you'd like to play outside, use a couple of towels!

You will need plenty of space to move around in. You will also want fewer safe squares (your towels or cushions) than participants. [For example, if there are four people playing, you will want only two or three safe squares]

Once the game begins, your feet cannot touch the floor or ground; all participants must be standing on the safe squares (cushions, towels, etc.). You will need to work together to make sure no one gets left behind!

The goal is to work your way from one end of the room to the other without anyone falling off into the "water." If anyone falls in, you have to start over. Work together to build a strategy of who stands where and who moves the squares to get all participants to the other side. Have fun!

## **Make a Boat – Family Challenge**

Materials:

- Tinfoil and/or household items
- Tub, pool, or basin of water
- Coins as weights

Using tinfoil, build a boat that will float in your tub. Enhance your boat with household items to see how many coins your boat can hold before it sinks.

For an extra challenge, you could make teams (or compete as individuals) to see who can make the strongest boat.

## **Does it Float – Preschool Fun**

Materials:

- Many different household items that can go in the water
- Tub, pool, or basin of water

Using the gathered household items, add them one at a time to the water. Let your child/ren discover what does or does not float. With older children who are also participating, add a few items that might not obviously float or sink to challenge them, such as a pineapple. If you are in a place that you can make a mess, take another small clear container and some water then try adding liquids to the water such as vegetable oil, dish soap, honey or chocolate syrup to see if they float or sink in the water.