

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Have faith

INTRODUCTION

Time and time again, Jesus shows us that when our faith and belief in him are strong, then anything is possible, even walking on water!

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say together:

May the light of Jesus shine in our lives.

SORRY

During a short period of silent contemplation, encourage the children to think about the events of the past week and to examine their consciences. Ask a child to choose a "sorry color" prayer, which can be read aloud by themselves or the group as a whole.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our ears, Jesus, to hear your words.

Fill us with your spirit

so that we will understand them.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 14:22-33)

Before going up to the hills to pray alone, Jesus told his disciples to sail to the other side of the lake. As night fell, the wind grew stronger and the disciples' boat was tossed about by the waves. Suddenly they saw someone coming towards the boat, walking on the water, and they were terrified, because they thought it was a ghost! But Jesus called to them, "Don't be afraid, it's me!"

Peter shouted to Jesus, "Lord, if that really is you, tell me to come to you across the water." "Come!" said Jesus.

So Peter climbed out of the boat and lowered himself onto the water. Looking straight at Jesus, he began to walk towards him; but as he moved further from the boat and felt the strength of the wind, he grew afraid. Suddenly he began to sink and he cried out, "Save me, Jesus!" As Jesus

reached out his hand and pulled Peter to safety, he said, "Why did you not trust me Peter? Is your belief so weak?" When they got back to the boat, the other disciples knelt before Jesus and said, "You are truly the son of God."

DISCUSSION

Imagine how frightened the disciples must have been to suddenly see someone walking on top of the water towards them on a dark stormy night. They probably cried out in fear and tried to hide somewhere on the boat.

To calm their fears, Jesus said, "Do not be afraid." He said this on several other occasions when the disciples were frightened by some of the amazing things they saw.

What did Peter do when he heard Jesus calling him to come? Peter climbed out of the boat and began to walk towards Jesus! Can an ordinary person normally walk on water? We can swim in water, and we can lie and float in the water; but if we try to stand without anything to make us float, we only sink.

When Peter felt the strength of the wind, he began to sink beneath the waves, because for just a moment his faith and belief weakened, and he felt afraid. Sometimes we are like Peter, full of courage and enthusiasm at first, but often let down by our lack of faith and by fear of the unknown.

Peter was an ordinary person like us, and he would often let Jesus down because his faith was weak. Yet Jesus is always forgiving and ready to reach out his hand to save us, just as he reached out that night and saved Peter on the lake.

ACTIVITY

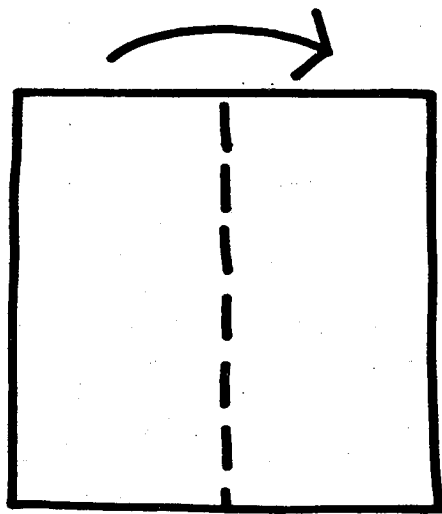
Use squares of colored paper to make boats with masts and sails.

CREED

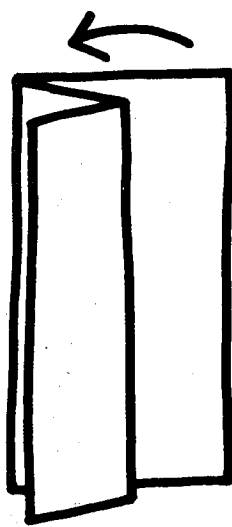
CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, give us the courage and faith of Peter,
whose belief was so strong
that he could walk towards Jesus
across the lake.

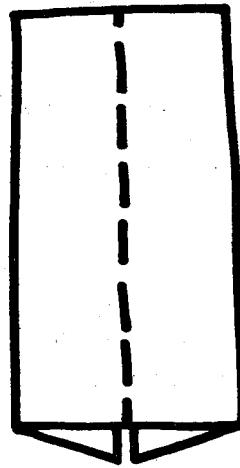
In times of weakness,
reach out your hand to us
and rescue us from our doubts.



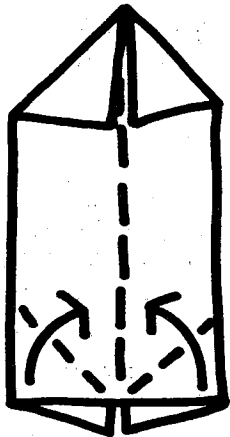
1. Fold square of paper in half.



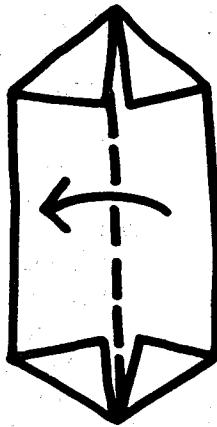
2. Fold edge of paper back to meet folded edge.



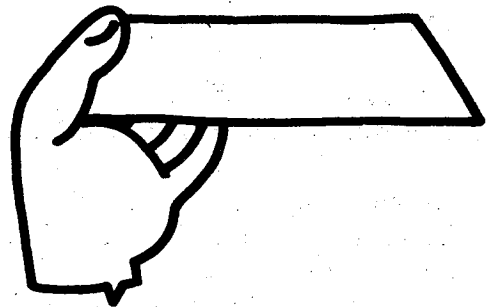
3. Turn paper over and repeat action. Then unfold paper.



4. Fold corners into middle crease.

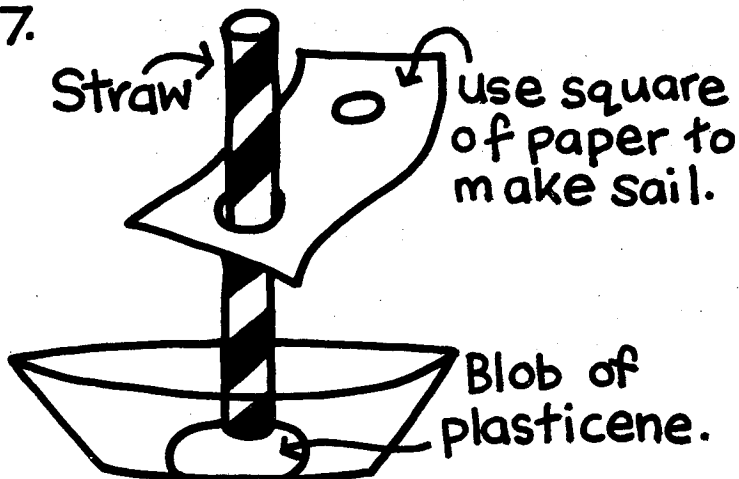


5. Fold right edge over to folded edge.



6. Put fingers inside and push corners down with thumbs to make boat 'stand'.

7.



8.

