

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2025

Class Curriculum - The Christian Life

Age - Junior Campers

Tuesday - Faith in Action

Summary

1. Subject: Faith in Action, living full of integrity and applying our faith to our lives
2. Scripture: James 1-2, Matthew 14:22-33
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Connect our faith with our actions. Teach the campers about the importance of consistency and follow-through in our faith
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Overview

This week's classes will focus on ethics, or in other words, "Christian Living". This will be applied differently to every age group. For Junior Campers, each class will begin with a story from the Bible, which can be read from scripture, read aloud from a children's bible storybook, or told by the teacher. Then, there will be a brief lesson/discussion to reiterate the main points from the story, followed by games and activities.

Today's lesson will focus on putting your faith into action. Knowing that goodness comes from God doesn't mean anything if we don't live good and loving lives as God wants. Today's scripture is James 1-2, which says that faith without works is dead. The story to illustrate this point is when Peter walks on water in Matthew 14:22-33.



Story

10-15 minutes

Peter Walks on Water

The story of Peter walking on water is found in Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus had many disciples, but He chose 12 men to be his apostles: close followers who learned from Him and went on to live like Him. Peter was chosen by Jesus to establish the Church, and in the book of Acts we read about many great things Peter did for Jesus.

In Matthew 14, we see the account of Jesus walking on water, followed by Peter. Tell the story of Peter walking on water to your class at an age-appropriate level. A brief summary is below:

- Jesus and His disciples had just finished feeding 5,000 people: a huge miracle performed by Jesus.
- Jesus told the apostles to take a boat and go on without Him, while He dismissed the crowd of people and went to pray by Himself.
- When He was done praying, it was nighttime, and the boat was far away from the shore. It was storming.
- Jesus walks on the water to get to the boat.
- When the disciples see Him, at first they think He is a ghost. Jesus assures them that it's Him.
- When Peter hears this, he jumps out of the boat to walk on the water toward Jesus.
- At first, Peter can walk on the water. Then, he sees the wind and gets scared. He sinks into the water.
- Jesus helps Peter out of the water and says that Peter's faith allowed him to walk on it, and his doubt made him sink.

Peter is a great man. While scripture records several mistakes he makes, it also records many more examples of Peter's great faith and triumphs. In this story, we see both his triumph and his doubt. Through tremendous faith in Jesus, Peter can walk on water. When fear clouds his faith, he begins to sink. We are like Peter in many ways: with faith in God, we can accomplish great things, but we often let things get in the way of living out our faith.

Lesson/Discussion

15 Minutes

Guided Discussion: Christians are people of faith. This doesn't just mean we believe in God; it means we live our lives like Him. The book of James tells us that when we have an authentic faith in God, our actions will reflect our faith. God calls us to obey His commands, love those around us, and do good. The story of Peter walking on water shows how important it is to put our faith into action and what can happen when we don't. Here are some discussion questions to help your campers understand these points.

Ask, **"How did Peter show his faith in this story?"** Peter's willingness to get out of the boat and try to meet Jesus shows great faith. We should all have the mindset of wanting to go to Jesus, no matter what may be in front of us.

Peter sank because he was afraid. Sometimes, we let fear get in the way of our faith. **"What are some other things that can stop us from putting our faith into action?"** Some answers may include fear or thinking we're too young or small to do something big. Maybe feeling like we don't know enough to do the right thing or that someone else would be better suited for it.

"What did Jesus do when Peter called out for help? What does this teach us about God?" Jesus immediately helped Peter out of the water. If we ever have moments where we doubt or make mistakes, Jesus always offers help. Christians have received forgiveness, and we can always get back up and try again.

"Has there been a time where you felt scared to do the right thing?" As the teacher, answer this question first. At an age-appropriate level, use examples that your campers can relate to. For them, this may include times where a parent asked for them to tell the truth, and they were afraid to get in trouble, or to get a friend/sibling in trouble.

"How can we act in faith like Peter did, even when we feel afraid? What are some ways we can put our faith into action every day?"

Read [James 1:22-24](#) together as a class. James says we need to be "doers", not just "hearers". Listening and learning are crucial parts of being a Christian, but so is doing! He says that if we go to church, camp, or bible class, but never put our faith into action, then we are like people who look into a mirror and immediately forget what we look like. Part of being a Christian is living out a Christian Life.



Activity/Illustration

Activity

“Self-Portraits”

Materials: Paper, coloring pens/pencils or markers/crayons. Optional: a hand mirror or other mirror.

All of your campers have seen their reflection and know what they look like. If possible, bring a mirror for each camper to take one look at their reflection (you can also use a phone camera to show them). Let campers look at their reflection for just a few moments, then have them draw a self-portrait to the best of their ability. If no mirror or camera is available, have them draw from memory.

For added fun, try these variations:

- Have a counselor make a silly face for just a few seconds. Have each camper try to draw that counselor’s silly face.
- Show the campers something neat (a painting, a book cover, a leaf from a tree, a novel item from the cabin, etc) and put it away after they’ve had a chance to look. Have them draw this item.

Application: James says that when we don’t put our faith into action, it’s like forgetting what we look like. God gives us everything we need to know in the Bible. It’s our job as Christians to learn from it and put it into action. Just like in our drawings, it’s important to learn and remember what we learn from the Bible, and then we need to be able to put it into action. In real life it won’t be drawing; it will be in how we treat those around us.

Trust Falls

With any time remaining, do trust falls where a camper turns their back to a counselor and falls backward, trusting that they will be caught. This can be a little scary, but it highlights how putting faith in God can also be a little scary. Once you’ve been caught a few times, it’s easier to fall backward, knowing that there’s no danger. Likewise, the more we trust in God the easier it gets to live life for Him.