

National Junior High Sunday 2022

“Take Courage,” based on Matthew 14:22-33

Children’s Story Ideas for Younger and Older Kids

By Becky Ullom Naugle

Younger kids: Tell the story of Matthew 14:22-33. Ask the kids a few questions, like: Why was Peter scared to get out of the boat? Have you ever walked on water? Do people usually walk on water? Can we trust Jesus to take care of us? Share this homespun, family music video: Peter and the Boat, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4kdOb9mW1Q> . Finish with a simple prayer, asking God to help us trust that Jesus will be with us always, even when we are scared.

Older kids: Print out (in color) enough “coloring frames” (on website for download) for each kid to have one. Have some crayons or colored pencils and books/hard surfaces available. Tell (or watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQoIkVHEUII>) the story of Matthew 14:22-33, asking the kids to pay special attention to what they notice about the story. Hand out a coloring frame. Say a simple prayer, like: “God, help us understand this story and what it means to our lives. Help us draw or write your message to us. Amen.” Have the congregation sit in silence for a few minutes while the kids draw or write what they noticed about the story. After a few minutes of creation time, ask the kids if anyone wants to share. Thank the kids for their wisdom and willingness to share.