

First, watch
this week's
video!

Confidence:
learning to
see yourself
the way God
sees you

Memory Verse

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
Philippians 1:6, NIV

Bible Story

Peter Walks
on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

Bottom Line

Stay focused
on Jesus.

Use this guide to help your family learn how God can help us live with confidence.

Activity

Walk the Line

What You Need:

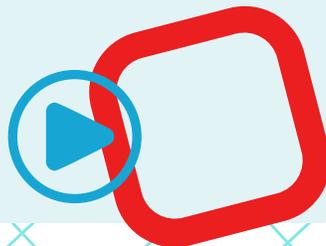
Painter's or masking tape, a timer

What You Do:

Tell your child that just like Peter, they're going on a very important walk. And just like Peter, they're going to need to focus on what matters most!

Say, "You're going to walk on this straight line (the tape). If you step off the tape, you have to go back to the start. I'm going to time you to see how quickly you can do it!"

When they're finished, see how quickly they can do it with one eye closed. (They can just put one hand over an eye if they can't keep it closed.) Then, with both eyes closed. If there's time, you can take a turn walking the line, too.



Talk About the Bible Story

When you walked down the line, how was that a little bit like Peter walking on water? (*You both needed to focus. You focused on the line of tape, but Peter focused on Jesus. When we focus on Jesus, we can be confident!*)

What amazes you most about this story?

Peter didn't seem to be afraid at first when he stepped out of the boat and onto the water. What made him lose his confidence and begin to sink? (*He stopped looking at Jesus.*)

When you're trying to follow Jesus, what are some things that pull you away or distract you from following Him? (*Fear, worry, being too busy, technology, etc.*)

What are some ways you can stay focused on Jesus? (*Going to church/small group, talking about Him, talking to Him, reading His words in the Bible, listening to worship music*)

Parent: Talk about a time in your life when you lost your focus on Jesus. What happened? How did you get your focus back on Him?

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your one and only Son. Help us to do what Peter did when he stepped out of the boat. Help us to trust Jesus and stay focused on Him! We love You, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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Key Question

What distracts you from focusing on Jesus?

Activity

Float Challenge

What You Need:

Bowl of water, paper clip, penny

What You Do:

Fill a bowl with water and challenge your child to somehow make the penny float.

Say, "Today, we heard about the time when Peter walked on water. That sounds impossible, right? You know what else sounds impossible? Getting a penny to float. But you can do it! I'll give you a hint: you'll definitely need to use that paper clip!"

Assist as needed. If, after a few attempts, your child is still struggling, give them a few hints:

- Bend the center of the paperclip up, forming an L-shaped hook.
- Place the penny on the base of the "L," or bottom of the hook. The penny must be completely dry.
- Use the hook to gently set the penny on the surface of the water. Do this very slowly and evenly, keeping the penny horizontal so it doesn't tip into the water.
- The surface tension should keep the penny floating on top of the water.



Talk About the Bible Story

What helped Peter stay on top of the water? (*His focus on Jesus*)

What amazes you most about this story?

Peter didn't seem to be afraid at first when he stepped out of the boat and onto the water. What made him lose his confidence and begin to sink? (*He stopped looking at Jesus.*)

When you're trying to follow Jesus, what are some things that pull you away or distract you from following Him? (*Fear, worry, being too busy, technology, etc.*)

What are some ways you can stay focused on Jesus? (*Going to church/small group, talking about Him, talking to Him, reading His words in the Bible, listening to worship music*)

How do you know when you're staying focused on Jesus? What kinds of things change about how you act and feel? (*Treat others the way you want to be treated, have a good attitude even when things are tough, you feel confident knowing how much Jesus loves you*)

Parent: Talk about a time in your life when you lost your focus on Jesus. What happened? How did you get your focus back on Him?

Prayer

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