

BIBLE STORY

**Peter Says That Jesus
Is the Messiah**
Matthew 16:13-20

MEMORY VERSE

**"Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is
the one who started this journey
of faith. And he is the one who
completes the journey of faith."**
Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

**You can TALK with others
about what you believe.**

1. FOCUS!

WHAT YOU NEED: "Focus Cards" (Activity Pages)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Shuffle two sets of "Focus Cards" together.
- Lay cards face down on the floor in a grid pattern.
- Tell kids they are going to play a matching game and it is important to be focused to win.
- Explain that each card is a picture from the Bible story. The pictures could answer Jesus' question, "Who do people say I am?"
- Guide kids to play a game:
 - Kids take turns flipping over two cards and trying to find a match.
 - To keep things moving quickly, kids get only one turn, even if they find a match.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job focusing on the cards to find all the matches. In our story, people thought Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, or a prophet. Often, when people talk about Jesus today, they say He is a healer, He feeds the poor, He is our Shepherd, or He's a teacher. But we are missing a card for Peter's response to Jesus. When Jesus asked Peter, Who do you say I am? Peter said, You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:15-16 NIV). Peter recognized Jesus as God's Son. Peter recognized Jesus as the One sent by God to rescue all of us. And when Jesus asked Peter what he believed, Peter answered Him. You can be like Peter, too, and **you can TALK with others about what you believe.** The more you TALK about what you believe, the more you can learn from others and the more others can learn from you."

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2. SAY WHAT?

WHAT YOU NEED: One piece of paper per person, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide the kids to fold the paper in half
- Ask kids to think about who they could talk to about what they believe. Be prepared to prompt them with suggestions, such as:
 - Is there someone in your family?
 - What about a friend you trust?
 - Is there someone in your life you know is a Jesus follower who could help you with questions you might have?

[Make It Personal] Share a story about someone in your life you talk with about what you believe. Maybe it is someone you go to when you have questions. Or maybe it is a friend who wants to know Jesus better, so they come to you to ask you what you believe.

- Make a list of the people on the left side of the paper.
- On the right side of the paper, guide the kids to draw one or two “Speech Bubbles.”
- Encourage them to write in a “Speech Bubble” something they could say to others about what they believe. Prompts for ideas could be:
 - A friend asked you who Jesus is. How could you reply?
 - What is a question you have about Jesus that you could ask someone who is a Jesus follower?
 - What is something cool you learned at church that you could share with a parent or siblings?

WHAT YOU SAY:

“You can TALK with others about what you believe, but what you talk about depends on what you know about Jesus. Maybe you are hearing about Jesus for the first time and you have a lot of questions. Talking to others and asking questions is one way to take a closer look and discover who Jesus is. Maybe, like Peter, you know Jesus as your Savior. You know you aren’t perfect, and you believe Jesus rescued you so you can be with God now and forever. By talking about what you believe, you can help others discover who Jesus is. When we talk to each other about what we believe, we can learn from each other.”

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PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) OR index cards;
markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to write on the top of page 11, "I believe . . ."
- Encourage kids to finish the sentence with what they believe about Jesus.
 - Prompt them by asking what adjectives would you use to describe Jesus or what stories they know about Jesus.
 - Give kids the freedom to use words or drawings to finish the sentence.
- If time allows, challenge kids to write (in their Focus Notebook) questions they may have about Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Maybe you have questions about what you believe or maybe, like Peter, you believe Jesus is your Messiah and you have asked Him to be your rescuer, and you know you are connected with God now and forever. It is important to remember as you learn more that **you can TALK with others about what you believe.** Let's pray.

"God, thank You so much for this story about Jesus. Jesus encouraged Peter to talk about what he believed, and You want us to talk about You, too. We know when we talk with others, we can get a closer look and discover who You are and all that Jesus did for us. We know, like Peter, we are not perfect. There are times we don't do what You want and we don't listen to You. We are so thankful You sent us Jesus to be our rescuer. And when we believe in Jesus, we can be with You now and forever! Thank You for loving us so much You want to be with us. Amen!"