

Session 4

Leader Devotional

Welcome back to Knights of North Castle VBS! Our Quest for the King's Armor continues. During this fourth session we focus on our faith in God.

Our Bible story begins after Jesus miraculously fed about five thousand people. Jesus instructed his disciples to go ahead of him to the other side of the lake. The disciples did as he said, and Jesus went up to a mountain to pray. Night came and the disciples—still on the lake—found themselves in the midst of a storm. Early in the morning, they saw the figure of a man walking toward them on the lake. They were terrified and screamed, thinking it was a ghost! They didn't know it was Jesus until he said, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).

Peter said, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." And Jesus said, "Come!" (28-29). Peter took a few steps toward Jesus on the water. Then Peter felt a strong wind, became frightened, and began to sink. He shouted, "Lord, rescue me!" Jesus reached out and grabbed him and said, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" (30-31).

Read and reflect on Matthew 14:30-31. Think of a time when you had doubts. What caused you to have more doubts than faith? What caused Peter to have more doubts than faith? Faith in Jesus helps us defy our circumstances and walk through and above them. We may not see large-

scale miracles very often, but in little ways every day, faith in Jesus gives us a shield of protection against all the things that make us afraid. Like the disciples, we can hear Jesus' voice above the wind saying, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

During this session of Knights of North Castle, we will discover another Castle Callout. Our Session 4 Castle Callout is "Armor Up with Faith!" Our goal is to teach students that our faith in God is stronger than our doubts and fears. Having doubts and fears are a normal part of life, yet as leaders we need to emphasize to our learners that having faith in God is essential to our daily living. Because God gives us strength, we can always look to Jesus and have faith in him. As leaders, we will repeat this Castle Callout during teaching times of VBS.

Let's pray.

God of grace and glory, we are grateful for another opportunity to serve you by teaching these students. Guide us as we provide a strong biblical foundation for faith development for these precious children of the church and community. May they grow in your grace and glory. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



Bible Story
Jesus Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

Castle Callout
Armor Up with Faith!

Banner Verse
Be strong in the Lord
and in the strength of his
power. Ephesians 6:10
(NRSV)