



**TODAY'S TOPIC:**  
**The Christ**

You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age but could be adjusted as needed.

**THINKING JOB:** Ask a “thinking job question” to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

***Who are some of my teachers?***

**Lesson**

| Materials  | Things to Prepare                                   | Today's Goal  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture or statue of Jesus</li> <li>• Picture or statue of a cross</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> | Know that Jesus Christ was one of religions greatest teachers, with a focus on love, compassion, and forgiveness. |

**ASK:** Who are some teachers in our life? (school, parents, the person doing this lesson). Did you know there can be religious teachers? There are many religions and many names for God, and sometimes these religious teachers are so great, they become famous for their ideas and stories.

**SAY:** One great teacher is named Jesus Christ. **Show picture or statue.** Has anyone ever heard of Jesus? We have a couple of big holidays about Jesus Christ – Christmas, when he was born, and Easter, when he died. He had human parents – Mary and Joseph – but he was also the son of God.

**EXPLAIN:** Jesus Christ lived a long time ago, but his message was so important and so strong, that people – called Christians - still follow his teaching today. One of his favorite ways to teach was by travelling all around and telling stories about God. There is a book of his stories called the Bible. The symbol most often associated with Jesus is a cross.

**ASK:** Does anyone know any of Jesus's stories? He has one about a brightly colored coat, one about a man getting swallowed by a whale, and even one about walking on water, plus lots more. But many of his stories have to do with three things: love, compassion, and forgiveness.

**ASK:** What is love? A feeling of attachment, affection, devotion, and caring. What is compassion? Caring for and wanting to help others. What is forgiveness? Deciding to release feelings of anger and upset towards another person.

**SAY:** God has sent many great teachers to share about God, religion and how to be the best you you can be.

**REPEAT:** So, which great teacher we talking about? Jesus! What did Jesus teach? Love, compassion, and forgiveness. What are some ways you can show love (hugs, kind words), compassion (asking if someone is okay or how you can help), and forgiveness (when someone does something to upset you, you can ask them to help make it right and not stay mad).

**AFFIRMATION:** In the bible, the book of Jesus's teachings, it says, "Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love." And that is our affirmation for today - I am loving! Repeat 4x

**OPTIONAL STORY:** Jesus walks on water.

**AFFIRMATION** – I am loving. repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/> .

## **The Story: This is a child friendly and modernized telling of Jesus Walked on Water.**

Jesus and his disciples (the people who helped him teach) had been teaching big crowds of people. They were about to travel to their next place to teach when Jesus decided he wanted to spend a little time alone so He could pray to God. Jesus told his friend the disciples to go ahead and take the rowboat to their next stop and he would catch up. So, the disciples grabbed their oars and set out in the boat, and Jesus went up to the mountainside to pray.

The water in the lake was rough. The disciples had to row very hard and after a long time it was very dark and windy, and they had only made it to the middle of the lake. Jesus had finished praying, and He looked out on the lake and saw his friends trying to row. (It was amazing that Jesus could see about three miles out in the lake even though it was dark!).

Jesus began walking out on the water as if it was dry land! He did not swim or tread water. He just walked on top of the water but did not sink.

What do you think the disciples thought when they watched Jesus walking by? Well, they were kind of scared! Who would expect someone to be walking on the water in the middle of the night? And they thought maybe it was a ghost and not their friend and they started to yell.

When Jesus heard them, He called out to his friends, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." One guy, named Peter, couldn't believe his ears. That didn't sound like a ghost. That sounded like Jesus. Maybe it was a trick. Peter decided to test the ghost. "Jesus, if it's you," Peter called out, "tell me to come to you on the water." Then he heard Jesus' voice, "COME."

Peter got out of the boat and began walking toward Jesus. He was walking on the water just like Jesus was! Then Peter started looking around and noticing all the waves and wind. He stopped thinking about Jesus and started thinking about the water.

Then Peter began to sink into the water. He yelled out to Jesus, "Jesus, save me." Jesus reached down and caught Peter. "Peter," He said, "Why did you stop paying attention to God? That is when you sink. Be sure to always have faith in God and you will be okay.

Then Peter and Jesus stepped into the boat, and as if by magic, the storm immediately went away. And all his friends knew how important it was to believe in God.