

SAMPLE

SAMPLE



WEEK 13

Peter Walks on Water

BY JACKSON FROM THE U.S.A.



“I got you!” Jackson shouted when he finally caught the monster in the game on his phone. He felt his brother pull at his sleeve in the backseat of their car.

He looked around. He saw his mother looking at him in the rearview mirror and tears falling from his brother’s eyes. His mother signaled for him to remove his headphones. When Jackson did, all kinds of sounds flooded his ears: Drew crying, his mother telling him to listen and the music on the GAMELIFE CD telling him to fix his eyes on Jesus.

“Ugh,” Jackson groaned. “What am I supposed to do?”

“Just listen to your little brother and answer him!” his mother insisted irritably.

By this time, Drew was just sniffing and wiping his tears. “Jacks, why don’t you play with me ‘anymo’?” he said in baby talk.

Jackson rolled his eyes. “I will, it’s just...” he paused as they pulled into the church parking lot. “I just have a lot of other things to focus on.”

As he jumped out of the car, he heard the GAMELIFE song continue to play: “My eyes are on you ‘til the earth has passed, then I will see what always lasts.”

Jackson was not sure what the song meant. All he knew was that they had arrived and he wanted to join his friends in playing games. “Mom, can I go?”

His mother nodded, but looked unhappy. Jackson patted Drew’s head and sprinted off.

When he arrived at the GAMELIFE training session, he saw players receiving clothespins and clipping them onto the back of their shirts or dresses.

“What are they for?” he asked his friend, Felix.

“I don’t know! Coach Ashley won’t tell us!” Felix responded. The boys were put in a group together and led to a circle of cones.

Coach Ashley finally spoke: “This game is a chasing game! You will run around your group’s circle of cones, chasing the player in front of you to get his or her clothespin!”

“That’s easy for us,” Jackson said, nudging Felix. “We’re really fast.”

“You also need to keep away from the player behind you who will be grabbing for your clothespin,” Coach Ashley continued. “If your clothespin is taken, you must step out of the circle so that the remaining players can continue running.”

“Oh no,” Jackson said. He realized that Felix was the player right behind him. He knew that he would have to run extra fast to keep out of his reach.

“Go!” Coach Ashley called out.

Jackson zoomed ahead at full speed. He turned his head over his shoulder to see Felix not far behind. He tried to go faster but soon heard Felix panting, right on his heels! Jackson looked back once more to see a hand reaching towards him. The dreaded tug on his shirt came. Jackson jumped out of the circle. Felix sped past.

Jackson walked up to Coach Ben who was cheering for the players who were still in.

“I don’t get it,” Jackson told him. “In all our races, Felix and I are the same speed.”

“There is one big difference in how you two race,” Coach Ben pointed out. “Do you see how Felix is focused straight ahead on the clothespin in front of him? Do you see how Damian in front of him keeps looking back? That is slowing Damian down because it’s pulling his focus and the direction of his body from what’s ahead to what’s behind him.” As soon as the words left the coach’s mouth, Felix shouted out in victory as he pulled off Damian’s clothespin.

“Thanks, Coach Ben. I get it now: focus ahead,” Jackson said as he ran to play another round.



Read the Bible passage that Jackson read: Matthew 14:22-33.

As you read, ask yourselves these questions:

- 1) When Peter started to sink where was he looking?
- 2) What did Jesus say that he needed to do?

SAMPLE



SAMPLE

In the Discovery Zone, Jackson read about Peter’s walking on the water towards Jesus. As soon as he took his eyes off Jesus, he got scared and started to sink. Coach Ben taught that just like players could either focus on the clothespin ahead or the player behind, they could focus on distractions and difficulties in life or on Jesus.

As Jackson walked to his car, he thought about the difference putting his trust in Jesus would make in his own life’s difficulties: his parents’ divorce, his desire to fit in at school, and his struggles with a bully. He also understood that without fixing his eyes on Jesus, he would miss opportunities to point others, like Drew, to Jesus. “Not on me, my eyes on the unseen,” he sang to himself, finally understanding the GAMELIFE song lyrics.

TRUTH-LIFE CONNECTION

One Main Truth: We should live by faith with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

What are difficult things happening in your life?

How can these problems pull your focus away from Jesus?

Why do you think it is important to focus on Jesus?

How will focusing on Jesus help you with your problems?

Pray as a family: *“Jesus, help us to keep our eyes on you. Help us not doubt your power or love. Increase our faith and empower us to go your way. Amen.”*

WHAT ABOUT JACKSON?

Jackson represents one of more than 320 million people who live in the USA, more than 26% of which are Evangelical Christians.

The United States is in North America (#5 in the GAMELIFE 77 code). It has mountains, deserts, and prairies lying between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Pray that children like Jackson fix their eyes on Jesus, not allowing distractions or fears to pull their focus off of him.