

**F****A****M****I****L****Y****Deuteronomy 6:7***Bible Time*

Use the following suggestions and Bible passages to talk with your grade-schooler or teenager about Bible teachings any time, including during Family Bible Time. Additional ideas may be found in your family members' Sunday School resources. Check out the Family Bible Time planning helps on page 5 of this *Life Truths Learner Guide*.

**Leading Children*****Matthew 14:22-33***

If your child does not know what a mime is, explain that a mime acts out stories or ideas without speaking, using only facial expressions and body movements. Invite your child to mime the following situations: she is praying; she is in a small boat, the wind is blowing hard, and the waves are high and strong; she is sinking under water and feels like she can't swim; and she is worshipping.

Ask your child if she knows how all of her miming situations relate to one another. If necessary, point out that each of these situations happened in one Bible story. Guide her to open her Bible to Matthew 14 and read verses 22-33. As she reads, call attention to each part she mimed.

After she has read the verses, tell your child there is a special word people use to explain how Jesus was able to walk on the water. Ask her if she knows what that word is (miracle), then challenge her to find another miracle in the verses she just read (wind stopped when Jesus got in the boat, v. 32). Ask her how Jesus was able to do these miracles. If she needs help, give her a hint to see how the disciples concluded He did them ("Truly You are the Son of God!", v. 33).

Lead your child to talk about what a miracle is. Be certain she understands that a miracle is not a trick or optical illusion. Jesus can do things no one else can do. He was able to do miracles because He is the Son of God, and He can still do miracles today.

**Leading Students*****John 1:1-9,14-17***

Inform your family that devotional time will be held in your family room. Secure a candle and matches, gather your family together, and turn out all the lights. As you sit in darkness, discuss characteristics of the dark and other topics such as reasons people are afraid of the dark.

Light the candle and ask teens the difference this makes in the room. Ask: What can be done now that could not be done before? Observe that some of the darkness still lingers due to the fact that the candle light is not enough to light the entire room.

Grab a Bible and read aloud John 1:4-5. Ask who is the light of the world. As teens respond "Jesus", turn on the main light in the room. Ask: What happened to the remaining darkness? How has Jesus been the Light in your life? How have you smothered the Light? If Jesus is the true light, what difference does that make in how you live?

Conduct a taste test prepared ahead of time with name-brand soda and off-brand soda, name-brand candies and off-brand ones. Instruct teens to taste each item and try to guess the "real" one. Reveal the truth and debrief. Say: Sometimes we have difficulty determining truth in a world of darkness and false teachings. Ask: What are some false gods and/or teachings today? How can we be a family of Light that will make a difference in our community? Distribute index cards and instruct family members to record actions to take this week. Tape these to the television and pray together.