

# Oceans of Love

## OVERVIEW

### Description

Oceans of Love is a Vacation Bible School curriculum that examines 5 stories in the Bible that involve water. Using the theme of sailing, children will become sailors for the week and embark on a journey of searching for how God's love is present in each story. Through songs, crafts, play, STREAM activities (Science, Technology, wRiting, Engineering, Art, and Math), mission projects, and movement, kids and adults will discover together the "oceans of love" our God offers us.

This curriculum is divided into two age groups: **Star Sailors (ages Pre-K to 2nd grade)** and **Sun Sailors (3rd grade-5th grade)**. However, you are encouraged to form groups as you see fit, and can even create mixed age groups as long as both groups are provided age-appropriate activities.

### Theme Details

During the program, your main group space will be known as the Story Ship. This is where you will start and end each day (and could also function as the snack space). During each skit, a message in a bottle will arrive to share where God's love is found in the Bible story for each day, prompting discussion questions and kicking off the day's discussion topics.

### Skits

Each day begins with a skit starring Admiral Oartheodox and Captain Chris Sea Anity. No acting experience is necessary for these roles, but a sense of playfulness definitely is!

## Decorations

Recommended decorations include sea creatures (jellyfish, sea turtles, whales, dolphins, fish), sailboats, anchors, waves made of crepe paper, coral reefs made from pool noodles or colored paper, and bubbles made of clear balloons (See Pinterest Board link below for inspirational images).

## Suggested Schedule for a 3-hour, 5 Day Program

9am-9:20am Welcome to the Story Ship, opening songs and theme song, opening skit  
9:25am-9:50am Coral Reef Crafts (Discussion and STREAM Learning)  
9:55am-10:15am Lighthouse Lab (STREAM Learning)  
10:20am-10:35am Salt Water Snack Bar  
10:40am-11:00am Marine Missions (Compassion and Justice project)  
11:05am-11:25am The Tide Pool (Movement)  
11:30am-12pm Closing skit, discussion/reflection, theme song, closing prayer

(5 minute transitions are added between rotations for sailors to relocate and introduce themselves to volunteers)

## Snacks

Each day comes with thematic, unique snack ideas and recipes. All snacks are plant based unless noted, and multiple options are provided each day to accommodate various food allergies.

## Instructions and alternatives

Make sure to check out the [Pinterest Board](https://pin.it/38NetXrVi) where you'll find all the coordinating tutorials, games, instructions, recipes, as well as alternative ideas for activities. The link to it is here: <https://pin.it/38NetXrVi>

## Welcome Activity

Admiral Oarthodox and Captain Chris Sea Anity use a telescope during their skits every day. A fun welcome activity on Day 1 for all sailors as they arrive would be to have them make a name tag and a telescope using an empty paper towel roll, some stickers, and markers.

# Oceans of Love



## DAY 1

**JESUS INVITES US TO BE CALM AND  
CONFIDENT IN GOD'S LOVE EVEN WHEN WE FEEL AFRAID.**

**Scripture focus: Mark 6:45-56**

**22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."**

**28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."**

**Where is God's love in this story?** Jesus shared God's love by inviting the disciples to be brave during a storm, and he was so confident in God's ability to save us that he invited Peter to step out of the boat and walk on water with him, defying

what we know about density, gravity, and buoyancy! Jesus invites us to be calm and confident in God's love and presence even when we are frightened.

**Story Ship Skit:** See Day 1 Skit

# Oceans of Love

## **Day 1 Opening Skit:**

### **Characters:**

- Admiral Oarthodox
- Captain Chris Sea Anity

(Note: These characters are both gender neutral, but the script uses he/him pronouns for Admiral and she/her pronouns for Captain Chris)

### **Stage Design/Props:**

- The stage area can be decorated like a boat, with waves, sea creatures, and nautical themed decor
- A large bottle with a rolled up "message" in it
- A Bible
- A telescope
- Optional anchor on a rope

Admiral Oarthodox is pacing around the boat, periodically using his telescope. He turns it both directions, seeming confused by it. Captain Chris joins him onstage.

CHRIS: Good morning, Admiral! I see our new sailors have joined us for our expedition!

ADMIRAL: Our new sailors? Where?!

CHRIS: (gesturing to sailors) Why right here of course!

ADMIRAL: Good grief! I thought that was a pod of wild dolphins!

CHRIS: Dolphins?! No, these are the new sailors I told you about. They're joining us this week on our special expedition.

ADMIRAL: Ah yes. Of course! Our special expedition. I can't wait! I'm so excited. Are you all excited, new sailors? Me too. I'm thrilled. I've been looking forward to this for months. Our special expedition. Um....Remind me where we are going?

CHRIS: We are sailing this Story Ship across these uncharted waters, searching for God's love in the Bible.

ADMIRAL: Ah yes. Of course!

CHRIS: Where are my manners? We ought to introduce ourselves. Sailors, I am Captain Chris Sea Anity, here to sail and serve. (Bows)

ADMIRAL: And I'm Admiral Oarthodox, always ready for a new adventure. (Bows)

CHRIS: Oh, Admiral, speaking of a new adventure, we should set sail immediately if we're going to reach our destination on time.

ADMIRAL: Agreed! Sailors, on the count of three, let's all shout, "ANCHORS AWEIGH!" and start our voyage. One, two three, ANCHORS AWEIGH!

[If using an anchor prop, hold it up here to signal the voyage has begun.]

CHRIS: Ah, the joy of the open water. (Uses the telescope) Hey, I think I do see a pod of wild dolphins! Oh wait, that's a shark.

ADMIRAL: A shark!? (Grabs the telescope)

CHRIS: Oh, I have a great shark joke. Why do sharks live in salt water?

ADMIRAL: Why?

CHRIS: Because pepper water makes them sneeze!

ADMIRAL: Oh that's a good one. Well I don't see a shark. Or dolphins. Or anything. Is this telescope working? Sometimes I wish I could just get off the boat and walk on water for a closer look, don't you?

CHRIS: Well it's funny you say that, Admiral, because our story today is about the disciple Peter walking on water.

ADMIRAL: No kidding?

CHRIS: I have it right here. (Opens Bible) This is from the Gospel of Mark.

*22 Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."*

*28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

ADMIRAL: Wow. I can't believe Jesus walked on water.

CHRIS: He did!

ADMIRAL: And I can't believe Peter was brave enough to get out of the boat.

CHRIS: He was!

ADMIRAL: And I can't believe he started to sink.

CHRIS: He did!

ADMIRAL: This is a great story. But...where is God's love in this story?

CHRIS: Well, it's...it's...it's...I'm not sure.

(Message in a bottle “floats” up to them, this can be done by having a volunteer pass the bottle through all the sailors up to the actors)

ADMIRAL: (using telescope) Is that a dolphin?

CHRIS: No.

ADMIRAL: Is it a shark!?

CHRIS: No, it’s a message in a bottle!

[Chris opens the bottle and reads the message]

CHRIS: It says, ‘Jesus shared God’s love by inviting the disciples to be brave during a storm! Jesus invites us to be calm and confident in God’s love and presence even when we are frightened.’

ADMIRAL: Oh, that’s what I was going to say!

CHRIS: Well, there you have it. I think we have found God’s love in today’s story!

ADMIRAL: There is still a lot to unpack today about our story. I invite you to go and have some adventures on our voyage today and meet us back here at noon to discuss it all.

CHRIS: Before we go, let’s all shout OCEANS OF LOVE, since that is what we are exploring this week. One, two, three...OCEANS OF LOVE!

## **Day 1 Closing Skit:**

(Prior to Closing Skit, consider practicing the theme song as a group 1-2 times)

ADMIRAL: Welcome back to the Story Ship, sailors! How was your first day? Would anyone like to come and share for the group something you learned today?

[Open mic time for kids to share what they learned.]

CHRIS: Well I must say we are off to a great start! Let’s close with a moment of prayer: God of the wind and sea, we pray that you would teach us to trust you and be calm and confident in your presence at all times. Amen!



[Any announcements/reminders can take place here.]

CHRIS AND ADMIRAL: OOF!

CHRIS: We just hit land! I guess we're back home for the day. Tomorrow, we will once again set sail at 9am, so don't be late.