



# PLAY IT

## EYES ON THE PRIZE

Peter did fine on his water walk until he took his eyes off Jesus and paid attention to the wind and waves. Jesus could have floated Peter safely above the water no matter what Peter was thinking about, but Jesus chose not to. There was a lesson Peter needed to learn, and it's a lesson for us too. Let's see if a quick game of "Eyes on the Prize" can help us learn the lesson.

### Supplies

Hefty books (hymnals, dictionaries, any book that won't be hurt if it falls to the floor)

### Directions

1. Have everyone line up, side by side with their backs against a wall.
2. Give each person a book and these instructions: Place the book I gave you on your head and walk to the far wall without dropping the book. If it falls, try to catch it, but you can't use your hands to steady the book as you walk.
3. Suggest players pick a spot on the far wall at eye level to focus on as they walk. This will help them keep their posture straight and heads level.
4. If a player's book falls, that player can pick it up, return it to his or her head, and continue.
5. On their way back across the room, ask players to stop, look at one another, then at the floor, then at the ceiling. It's likely books will tumble, but that's OK.

After the game, talk about this:

- How did focusing on the far wall help or hurt your ability to keep your book in place?
- What happened when you shifted your focus elsewhere?
- Jesus didn't force Peter to focus on Him, and Jesus doesn't force us either. Why do you think Jesus—who could make that happen because He can do anything—doesn't make us pay attention to Him?



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## ME, YES; YOU, NOT SO MUCH

If you were to ask Jesus what He can do that nobody with you in the room can do, He'd give you a long list. Ask the same question to the people in the room, and you won't get as long a list—but we're pretty sure you'll get *something*.

Let's test that theory with a game of Me, Yes; You, Not So Much.

### Directions

1. Explain: Players will take turns demonstrating something they can do that they think others can't do. For instance: do the splits, quickly recite the alphabet backwards, name every state or province, roll their tongues, touch their noses with their tongues, or stand in a proper ballet Fifth Position.
2. After a player demonstrates an alleged unique ability, others can challenge the claim by attempting to do the action themselves.
3. Applaud all demonstrations of unique abilities ... even the odd ones.

After the game, talk about this:

- Jesus found that being able to walk on water came in handy. In what situation might the ability you demonstrated be equally useful?
- If you could trade in what you just showed us for another ability, what would you choose?
- Jesus wasn't showing off. When Jesus did a miracle, it was for a reason. What do you think His reason was for walking on water to the disciples?



# PLAY IT

## STAYING AFLOAT

### Supplies

Towels

Large bucket 2/3 full of water

Wide range of objects such as coins, toys, keys, a raw egg, an apple, a naval orange, a peeled naval orange, cans of soda (both sugared and sugar free) an almond, a wax candle, a ballpoint pen, paper clip, a dollar bill, leaves and other objects from nature, various balls—include a bowling ball if you have one

### Directions

1. Gather players around the basin.
2. Before gently placing each object on the surface of the water, ask players to declare if they believe the object will float. Remove each object after testing it.
3. Finish the tests by pulling off one shoe and asking if players think your foot will sink or float. Then find out!

After the activity, talk about this:

- When Peter stepped out of the boat onto choppy water, how do you think the other disciples voted when it came to him sinking or staying afloat? Why?
- Our experiences inform what we think is possible and impossible. How has Jesus surprised you by doing what's not possible—except that He could do it? What's that say about His power and authority?
- Doubt and fear pulled Peter's focus off Jesus. When do doubt and fear do that in your life? What would help you keep your eyes on Jesus?