

**STORY**

Jesus Walks on the Sea - Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Dear heavenly Father, our reason and our senses, the world and doubting friends, suggest many reasons to doubt Your Word and Promises. By Your Spirit, strengthen my faith and the faith of those whom I am about to teach about Your amazing power and will to help in time of need. Help us to walk confidently with faith in You over the troubled waters of life that we may come to You safely in the end. And if doubts threaten us, rescue us from them that we may firmly believe in Jesus our Savior who alone is able to deliver us from every evil of body and soul. In His name we pray, Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

*Bethsaida* - this town was on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee, a few miles north of Capernaum (see Rupprecht p. 194, 201).

*Fourth watch of the night* - using the Roman method of keeping time, this would be between three a.m. and six a.m.

*Ghost* - also in those times people were afraid of ghosts and spirits.

*Boisterous* - noisy and very turbulent or exuberant; of wind, flowing strongly and in various directions.

**OUTER AIM**

Jesus walked on water to help His disciples.

**INNER AIM**

Believe in Jesus without a doubt.

**BACKGROUND**

*(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp. 200-204)*

This story follows immediately after Jesus fed the 5,000+ with 5 loaves and 2 fish. It reminds us that people, even with great proofs for their faith, might still doubt and need God to continue to strengthen their faith.

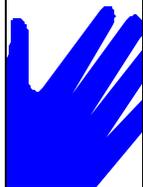
God wants us to believe in Him without doubting, for He alone can truly be trusted. Doubts are a sin against the 1st commandment because they reveal a lack of trust in God and instead, show trust in something else, whether it is our senses or someone other than God.

Matthew 14:22

- ▶ After Jesus had miraculously fed the thousands of people, they wanted to make Him their earthly king who would provide them with all their needs (John 6:15).
- ▶ To try to prevent that, Jesus sent everyone away.
- ▶ He sent the disciples by boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. In a boat, they wouldn't be coerced by the crowds who wanted to make Jesus a "Bread-King."
- ▶ Jesus sent the crowds away.
- ▶ A note on the destination: Mark 6:45 names their destination as Bethsaida while John 6:17 says they went toward Capernaum. The Bethsaida on the northwest side of the sea is a few miles north of Capernaum and the home of some of the disciples. The disciples could have been trying to visit their homes that night and then, the following day, plan to meet Jesus at Capernaum where He would be preaching next (John 6:24).

Matthew 14:23

- ▶ Jesus had much to pray about as He saw the people looking at Him, not as their Savior, but as their "bread king."



- ▶ He spent many hours alone in prayer on a mountain talking with His Father. He prayed into the evening, long after sunset.

v. 24

- ▶ The Sea of Galilee is about 40 miles across. On a good day, it wouldn't have taken the disciples a very long time to cross.
- ▶ A storm came up and the wind was against them. As their boat was tossed by the waves, they strained hard at the oars (Mark 6:48); in the hours of fighting the storm, they had gone only three to four miles (John 6:19).
- ▶ Jesus, on the land, saw the disciples caught in the storm. Jesus may or may not have needed to use His omniscience (all knowing ability) to see the disciples, depending on conditions which we don't know. We know only that He saw them. Mark 6:48.

v. 25

- ▶ Jesus waited until after three a.m. to come to His disciples. Then he did it in a miraculous way. He walked on the stormy water itself.
- ▶ As the Creator of all and divine Ruler over the laws of nature, He could command the water to support His human body.
- ▶ Mark tells us that He would have passed them by as a further test of their faith.

v. 26

- ▶ The disciples' reacted with fear and superstition. They thought that Jesus was a ghost and they cried out in fear as their reason grappled with what their senses told them.

v. 27

- ▶ Immediately Jesus speaks words of comfort, "Be of good cheer; it is I, do not be afraid." Literally: "Be courageous; I myself am, don't be afraid." The comforting voice of the Lord speaks through the storm to encourage them not to fear, for He is with them.

v. 28

- ▶ Peter responded with a bold request. "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to you upon the water." This might also be saying that Peter wouldn't believe unless He had proof. The others took Jesus at His Word.

v. 29

- ▶ Jesus' simple word of command calls Peter to trust Jesus to allow Him to walk safely across the violent sea.
- ▶ With a storm raging around him, Peter courageously stepped out of the boat and began to walk across the shifting sea toward Jesus.

v. 30

- ▶ Ah, but Peter took his eyes off the Lord and was overwhelmed by his reason and senses and questioned what his Lord had shown was possible.
- ▶ The strong wind blew making the waves rough. How could he, a mere human being, walk on water? In his fear and doubting, he began to sink as the grip of his faith relaxed its hold on the Lord's promise.
- ▶ Yet, he cried out to the Lord to save him as he began sinking.

v. 31

- ▶ Immediately, Jesus' hand caught Peter before he could drown.
- ▶ Jesus chided him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
- ▶ Peter, bold at first, didn't remain strong in faith when put to the test. Peter's doubts had let him down, but the Lord would not have abandoned him if Peter had continued to trust in Jesus.

v. 32

- ▶ This was a night of miracles: not only did Jesus and Peter walk on stormy water, but as soon as Jesus and Peter entered the boat, the storm stilled and, as John says, immediately the boat reached the other shore.
- ▶ Not coincidence, but these miracles occurred as Jesus' continued to display His love and power to the disciples.

v. 33

- ▶ The disciples reacted with overwhelming amazement and wonder.
- ▶ As Mark says (6:52), their hearts had been hardened or dull, and they hadn't grasped the lesson from Jesus' feeding the thousands with the loaves. They didn't grasp that Jesus was God who could be trusted to take care of them. But these amazing miracles brought the message home to them (see Mark 8:17). Now, in faith, they welcomed and worshiped Jesus saying, "Truthfully, You are the Son of God."

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word calls us to believe in Your promises. Your Word gives us many examples of Your power to do the humanly impossible in order to help those who trust in You. Strengthen our faith in You and Your Son Jesus Christ our Savior, that we may firmly believe without doubting anything that You have told us and promised us. When we are afraid, remind us of Your protection; when You ask us to do difficult things, give us courage to step forward without doubts. And if doubts distract our faith, rescue us when we call for Your help. We pray with trust in You who spared not Your own Son but delivered Him up to be our Savior, knowing that You alone can be trusted in every need, Amen.

## **PRESENTATION**

Briefly review the previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account). Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

**For the activity, you will need to have supplies ready. See the student lesson for those materials.**

## **APPLICATIONS**

1. Jesus knew that the disciples' faith needed to be strengthened, for they did not see how much they could trust in Him to take care of them in times of trouble. He allowed them to experience the storm in order to show them that He was able to protect them. They learned that Jesus could do the humanly impossible to help them, such as walking on the stormy sea and stilling the sea at will. They also saw from Peter's example what happens when doubts overcome faith. Yet, they also saw that the Lord was quick to rescue Peter when he called for help as his doubts let him down. As their faith grasped these truths, they responded in worship of Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus wants us to have a strong, unwavering trust in Him as well. From this story and others and the promises of God's Word, we learn that we too can trust in

God confidently, despite the doubts that our senses, our reason, or other people will suggest against such faith. If we divert our eyes from God and His promises, we will sink. But if we start to sink, we know that Jesus' rescuing hand will bring us to safety. God is faithful to those who trust in Him.

2. Fear, worry, and doubt can replace faith. Faith is a firm trust and confidence in God and His Word. Why are fear, worry, and doubt sins against the first commandment? Why can't we always trust our senses, our reason, or sometimes, other people in matters of faith and life? (Sin prevents us from seeing how God can work in spite of how the situation may seem to us.) How do we know that we can trust in God even when our faith is being tested (Romans 8:31-39)? Discuss how Psalm 46 is an encouraging declaration of faith. See also James 1:6.
3. Jesus is able to protect His people from every danger. Consider examples from the Bible of how God protects His people from danger. Talk over with the children how God is able to take care of His dear children.

## **PASSAGES**

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

### Lower

Psalms 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

### Middle any of the above and...

Psalm 46:1-3 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.

### Upper any of the above and...

Romans 8:31-32 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **HYMN CHOICES**

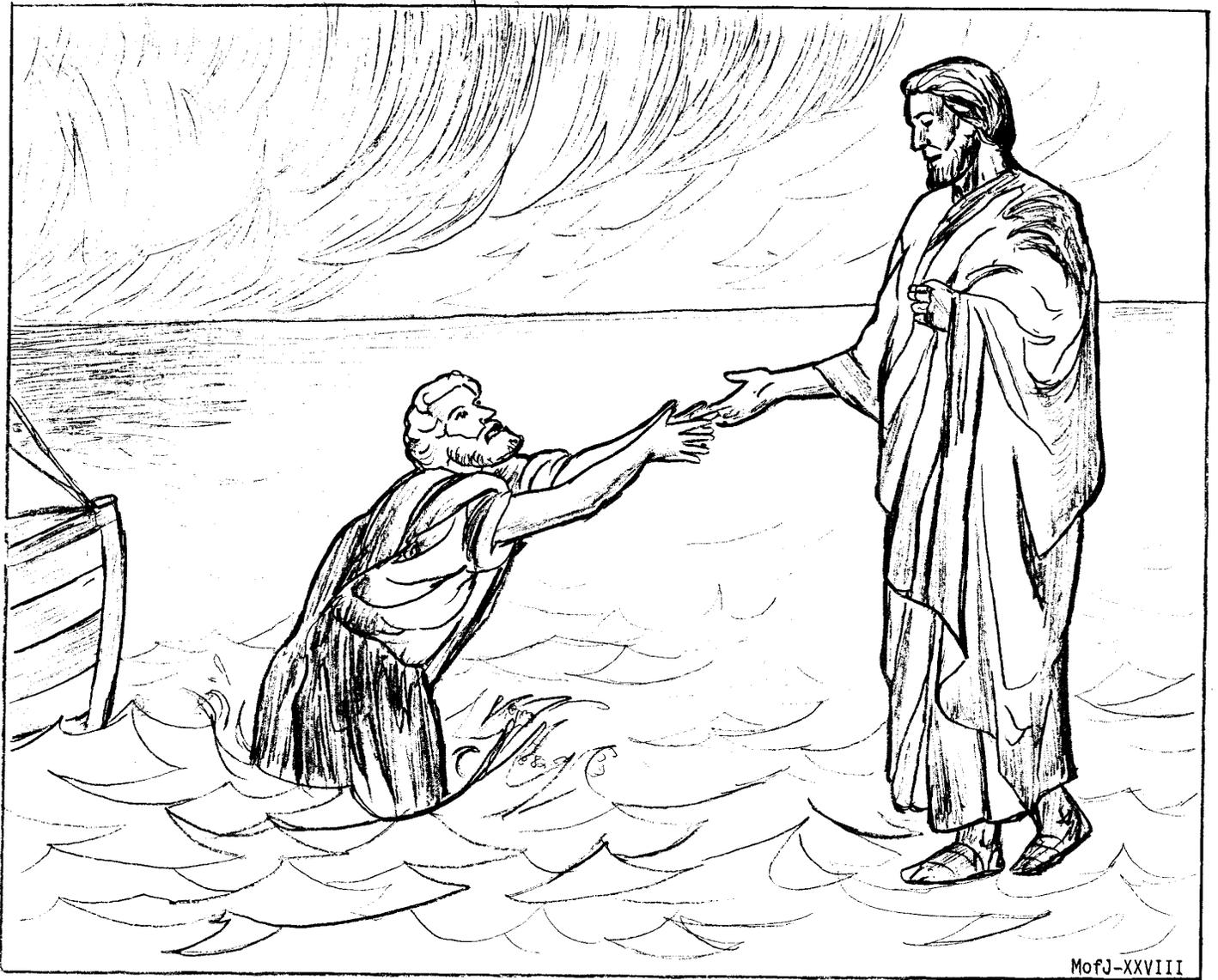
"Oh, For a Faith That Will Not Shrink" (TLH 396 1, 3, 6)

"If God Himself Be For Me" (TLH 528 1-3, choose more)

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus" (TLH 53)

# Jesus Walks on the Water

Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21



## The Story

Jesus had just finished feeding the 5000 people. The people wanted to make Him king. That was not what Jesus wanted. He told the people to go home. He had His disciples get into a boat to go to the other side of the lake. He went up on a mountain to pray by Himself.

When it was evening, the disciples in the boat were in the middle of the lake. They were trying to cross the lake, but the wind was so strong they couldn't. Jesus was not with them. He was alone on the mountain.

But Jesus did not stay on the land. The disciples needed His help. In the middle of the night, Jesus walked on the water toward the boat. When the disciples saw Him coming they were very scared and said, "It is a ghost."

But Jesus spoke right away and told them not to be afraid. He said, "Be happy. It's Jesus. Do not be afraid."

Peter answered Jesus. "Lord, if it is You, tell me to come to You on the water."

Jesus told Peter to come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

All of a sudden, Peter saw the big waves and became scared. He started to sink. He called out to Jesus to save him. Jesus reached out His hand and helped Peter. Jesus asked Peter why he had

doubted Him.

Then Jesus stepped into the boat. As soon as He did, the storm stopped—the wind stopped blowing and the lake became calm! The boat was also on the other side of the lake. The disciples weren't in the middle of the lake any longer.

The disciples worshiped their Savior in thankfulness. "Truly, You are the Son of God."

**Activity One** - What makes you afraid? Draw a picture of what makes you afraid.



**You don't need to be afraid  
because Jesus is with you.**

**Activity Two** - Fill a small tub with water. Put each object in the water. If it floats, draw its picture in the FLOAT box. If it sinks, draw its picture in the NOT FLOAT box.

<b><u>Float</u></b>	<b><u>Objects</u></b> Wood Boat Rock Penny Cork Pen	<b><u>Not Float</u></b>
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*Do people float?  
Can they walk on water?  
Why could Peter walk on water?  
Why could Jesus walk on water?*

**Passage** - Memorize this passage by saying it together with your class and teacher.

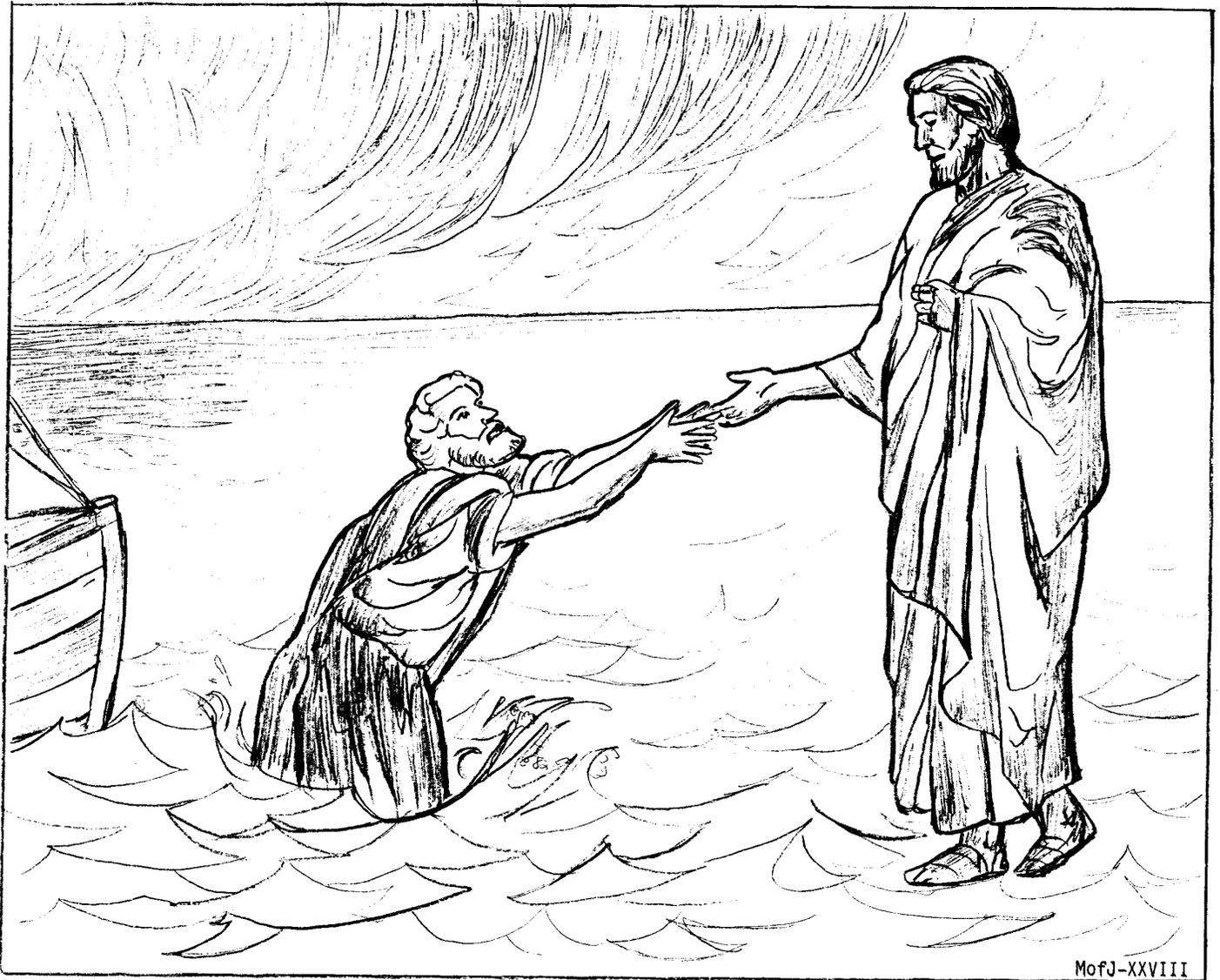
**Do not be afraid. Matthew 14:27**

**Prayer**

Thank You, Jesus, for always being with me. Amen.

# Jesus Walking on the Sea

Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21



## The Story

Jesus had just finished feeding the 5000 people. The people wanted to make Him king. But this is not what Jesus wanted. He had His disciples get into a boat to go to the other side of the lake. He told the people to go home. He went up on a mountain to pray by Himself.

When it was evening the disciples in the boat were in the middle of the lake. They were trying to row across, but a storm came and the wind was so strong they couldn't. Jesus was not with them, but He was alone on the land.

Jesus did not stay on the land. The disciples needed His help. In the middle of the night, Jesus walked on the water toward the boat. When the disciples saw Him coming they were very scared and said, "It is a ghost."

But Jesus spoke right away and told them not to be afraid. He said, "Be happy. It's Jesus. Do not be afraid."

Peter answered Jesus. "Lord, if it is You, tell me to come to You on the water."

And Jesus told Peter to come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

But then Peter saw the big waves and became scared. He started to sink. He called out to Jesus to save him. Jesus reached out His hand and helped Peter. He asked Peter why He had doubted Him.

Then Jesus stepped into the boat. As soon as He did the storm stopped—the wind stopped blowing and the lake was calm. The boat was also at the other side of the lake. The disciples weren't out in the middle any longer.

The disciples worshiped their Savior in thankfulness. "Truly You are the Son of God."

**Jesus walked on water to help His disciples.**

**Review** - Use the picture on page one for this activity.

1. Color the water in the picture blue.
2. What body of water is this?
3. Color the man who was sinking?
4. What was his name?
5. Why is he sinking?
6. Color Jesus.
7. Why can Jesus walk on the water?

## Activity One

- ▶ Re-enact the story.
- ▶ Have some children be disciples on the boat rowing hard.
- ▶ One can be Peter.
- ▶ Another student can be Jesus.
- ▶ Review the sequence of events, showing all the miracles Jesus did.

**Believe in Jesus without a doubt.**

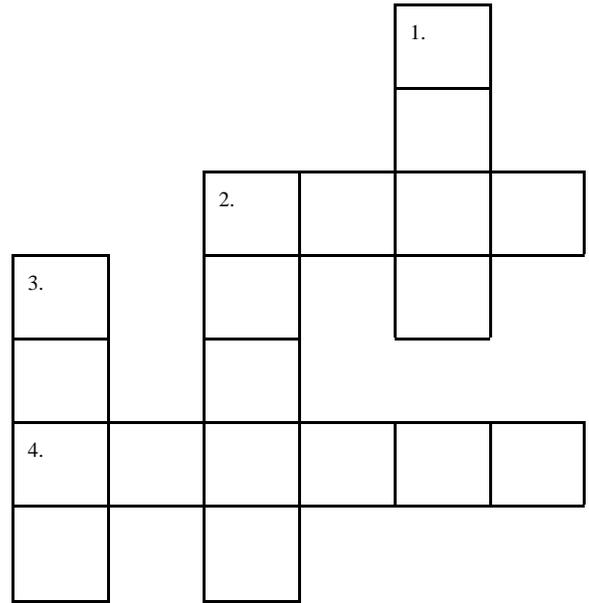
## Activity Two - Fill in the crossword puzzle.

### Across

2. After Peter saw the waves he started to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus said, "Do not be \_\_\_\_\_."

### Down

1. This stopped blowing when Jesus stepped into the boat.
2. This came upon the disciples in the middle of the night.
3. What Jesus did on the mountain alone.



## Passages

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you,  
and you shall glorify Me. Psalm 50:15

*Why can we always call on God?*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present  
help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

*Have you ever been in trouble? What should you do if you are in trouble?*

## Hymn - TLH 396 v. 1, 3

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink  
Tho' pressed by many a foe;  
That will not tremble on the brink  
Of poverty or woe;

A faith that shines more bright and clear  
When tempests rage without;  
That when in danger, knows no fear,  
In darkness feels no doubt.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You saved the disciples when they were in a storm. You will save us when we are in trouble too. Thank You, Jesus, for taking care of us. Amen.

# Jesus Walking on the Sea

Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21

Have you ever lied?

Do people sometimes doubt what you tell them?

Jesus never lies. We can always trust in and rely on Him.

## Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

## The Story

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He immediately made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida. Jesus sent the multitudes away, and departed again to the mountain by Himself to pray.

Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. The boat was being tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Jesus saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them.

Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them



by. They had rowed about three or four miles when they saw Jesus walking on the sea drawing near to the boat. When they saw Him, they supposed it was a ghost, and were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid;



and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

The disciples willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the wind ceased. Immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

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### Outer Aim

**Jesus walked on water to help His disciples.**

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**What the Lesson Tells Us** - Fill in the blanks with the best answer from the lesson.

1. The people wanted to make Jesus into a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ on the land.
3. About the \_\_\_\_\_ watch of the night Jesus came to them walking on the sea.
4. The disciples thought Jesus was a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_, one of the disciples, walked on the water too.
6. Jesus said, "Oh, you of little \_\_\_\_\_, why did you doubt?"
7. After the miracle, the disciples said, "Truly You are the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

## What God Tells Us – Mark each as (T)rue or (F)alse.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God sends us bad weather and troubles to punish us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. We should show our trust in God by walking on water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. We should always place our trust in God even if others make fun of us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Since God is our Father, we don't need to listen to our earthly parents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Doubting God is not always wrong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Because Jesus loves us, He will always do what is best for us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Worrying is a sin.

## Hymn - Look at Hymn 528 v. 1, 2. How does verse 2 fit this story?

If God Himself be for me,  
I may a host defy;  
For when I pray, before me  
My foes, confounded, fly.  
If Christ, my Head and Master,  
Befriend me from above,  
What foe or what disaster  
Can drive me from His love?

This I believe, yea, rather,  
Of this I make my boast,  
That God is my dear Father,  
The Friend who loves me most,  
And that, whate'er betide me,  
My Savior is at hand  
Thro' stormy seas to guide me  
And bring me safe to land.

## Passages

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.  
Psalm 50:15

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Psalm 46:1-3

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:31-32

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

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### Inner Aim

**Believe in Jesus without a doubt.**

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**Your Turn** - List the six miracles of Jesus in this story. Explain how these make you feel.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus,

I am happy to know that You care for me. I look at how You took care of the disciples on the boat so long ago. I know that You keep me safe too. Thank You for this and all things. Amen.

# Jesus Walking on the Sea

Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21

If you know a storm is coming, where should you be?  
Where is it safest?

In this story, the Lord caused the disciples to be out on a boat in a storm to teach them and us a lesson.

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word calls us to believe in Your promises. Your Word gives us many examples of Your power to do the humanly impossible in order to help those who trust in You. Strengthen our faith in You and Your Son Jesus Christ our Savior, that we may firmly believe all that You have told us and promised us without doubting. When we are afraid, remind us of Your protection; when You ask us to do difficult things, give us courage to step forward without doubts, knowing that You alone can be trusted in every need. If doubts distract our faith, rescue us when we call for Your help. We pray with trust in You, who spared not Your own Son but delivered Him up to be our Savior. Amen.



## The Story

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He immediately made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida. Jesus sent the multitudes away, and departed again to the mountain by Himself to pray.

Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. The boat was being tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Jesus saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them.

Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. They had rowed about three or four miles when they saw Jesus

walking on the sea drawing near to the boat. When they saw Him, they supposed it was a ghost, and were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him,



“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

The disciples willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the wind ceased. Immediately the boat was at the land where they were going. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and

marveled. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

**What the Story Tells Us** - Answer these questions about the story.

1. What did the people want to make Jesus?
2. To what city were the disciples going?
3. What was Jesus doing on the mountain?
4. What kind of boat were the disciples using?
5. At what time is it during the fourth watch?
6. What did the disciples think Jesus was?
7. Which disciple asked to walk on the water with Jesus?
8. Why did he start to sink?
9. What happened when Jesus got into the boat?
10. Where were they when Jesus entered the boat?
11. What did the disciples say to worship Him?

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**Outer Aim**

**Jesus walked on water to help His disciples.**

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus go alone to the mountain to pray?
2. Why should we pray?
3. Why do you think Jesus came to them this way—walking on the water?
4. What does this miracle of stopping the waves show about Jesus?
5. How should we feel when we are in a dangerous situation? How should we act?
6. What can we learn from this story?

## Passages

**Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. Psalm 50:15**

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed,  
and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;  
though its waters roar and be troubled,  
though the mountains shake with its swelling. Psalm 46:1-3**

**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,  
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**For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities  
nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,  
nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,  
shall be able to separate us from the love of God  
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39**

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### Inner Aim

**Believe in Jesus without a doubt.**

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## Hymn

Look at Hymn 528. Look carefully at the upper left corner of the page. You will see this hymn is based on Romans 8:31-39. Read these verses in Romans. Give reasons how this hymn explains these verses from Romans.

**Your Turn** - List the six miracles of Jesus in this story. Write the reference of the verse in Matthew, Mark, or John in which you find the miracle.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**Prayer** - Write a prayer that fits our story today.