



Jesus Walks on Water

(based on Mathew 14:22-33)

Jesus and his disciples were beside the Lake of Galilee. Jesus had been teaching and healing all day. When evening came, Jesus blessed the people and sent them home. Then he turned to the disciples and told them to go ahead without him.

“Take the boat to the other side of the lake,” he instructed. “I’ll catch up with you later.”

So the disciples left, and Jesus climbed the hillside so he could have some time alone to pray. He stayed there for a long time.

Meanwhile, out on the lake, the disciples were facing a storm. The wind was blowing hard against their boat, and they couldn’t reach the shore.

Suddenly, one of the disciples happened to look back across the water.

“What’s that?” He screamed. The disciples peered into the dark. They saw something scary. A man was coming toward them. He was walking on top of the water.

“It’s a ghost,” yelled the disciples. They were frightened.

Suddenly they heard a voice. “Do not be afraid,” the man shouted. “It’s me. It’s Jesus.”

Peter tried to see through the spray. “Jesus?” he cried. “Is that you? If it’s you, call me to come out on the water.”

“Come to me, Peter,” replied Jesus.

So Peter jumped out of the boat and began to walk on the water to Jesus.

“Wow!” Exclaimed all the disciples. Peter was walking on top of the water, and he wasn’t sinking.

At that very moment, Peter looked down and saw the waves moving under his feet. Yikes! Suddenly he felt terrified and began to sink. He was going down.

“Help me, Jesus!” Peter cried.

Straight away, Jesus reached out, grabbed Peter, and helped him back to the boat. At that very moment, the wind died down.

The disciples were amazed. “Now we know for sure,” they exclaimed. “You are the Son of God.”



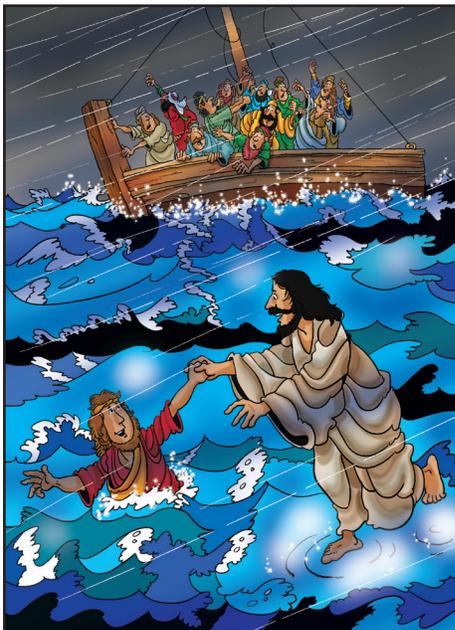
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Wonder why Jesus spent time alone with God. Talk about places you choose to go to be alone to pray.
- Act out the story as it is read. Make a boat from chair cushions and use blue fabric for the sea. Take turns pretending to be Jesus and Peter. Everyone can make rocking motions as if you are afloat on a stormy sea.



Responding to God's Grace

- On paper, print “Jesus, please calm the storms of our lives. Amen.” Sketch images of storms (wind, rain, snow) or cut out storm pictures from magazines and glue them onto paper. Talk about “storms” in your lives, such as illness, difficult schoolwork, and disagreements. Talk about ways we let Jesus calm our storms, such as praying, reading the Bible, and spending time with our church family.
- Make and deliver cards for people who might be experiencing storms in their lives. Remind them that God is with them.
- Make scary pictures using paper and crayons. Mention that the disciples had been scared in the boat during the storm, and that all of us get scared now and then. As you draw, talk about scary things. Then bring the conversation around to the disciples. Ask what made the disciples not feel scared anymore.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Share a snack of fish-shaped crackers. Talk about the water where Peter and the other disciples sailed their boat. Mention that Peter was a fisherman. Before eating, say a short prayer thanking God for food.
- Pray this prayer each day this week:

Dear God, whenever we feel afraid, remind us to reach out to you as Peter did. We are thankful that Jesus is truly the Son of God. In his name, we pray. Amen.