

Walking on Water

Matthew 14:22-32; Mark 6:45-51; John 6:16-21; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 377-382

Do you know how to swim? Can you stay on top of the water? A long time ago Jesus and Peter were both on top of the water, but they weren't swimming! Let's read on to find out what happened.

The disciples were in a boat together sailing along the sea of Galilee. They had spent the day with Jesus and had seen him do something amazing. He had taken five loaves and two fish and used it to feed more than 5,000 people!

How they wished Jesus would let the people crown Him king! But at the end of the day, Jesus had sent the people home and to the disciples said, "Go ahead. Go across the lake in the boat." Then Jesus had gone to a quiet place to pray.

Out on the lake, dark clouds began to gather. The wind whipped angry waves against the fishing boat. The experienced fishermen strained at the oars. They pulled harder and harder, but the storm was very strong.

The storm continued raging through the night. The wind pushed the waves higher and higher. By now the disciples were a considerable distance from the shore. Shortly before morning, but while it was still dark, Jesus saw them way out on the lake and decided to go to them.

Suddenly the disciples saw someone coming across the water toward them. They cried out in fear. "It's a ghost!" they shouted. It frightened them to see a person coming toward them

walking over the waves as if they were on solid ground!

"Don't be afraid!" a familiar voice called. "It is I, Jesus!"

Then Peter called out, "If it's really You, Lord, tell me to come to You on the water!"

"Come!" Jesus beckoned toward His eager and sometimes-reckless disciple.

Looking at Jesus, Peter climbed out of the boat and began walking along on top of the water. He took several steps. Then he turned his eyes away from Jesus and looked back at the disciples. He may have been thinking, *Hey!*



The Message

By keeping our eyes on
Jesus, we are saved.

Memory Verse

“What is impossible
with man is possible
with God”

(Luke 18:27).



Look at me!

*Can you believe it?**

As he started to turn back toward Jesus, he saw the huge waves. He felt the strong winds. He became afraid, and he started to sink. Instantly Peter's courage was gone. "Lord!" he shouted, "Save me!"

Even as Peter began to sink, the strong arm of Jesus reached out to him. Jesus grasped hold of his outstretched hand and lifted him up.

"You of little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt?" Jesus meant that Peter needed only to keep his eyes on Him. Peter needed to keep believing that Jesus had the power to save him. Jesus put His arm around Peter, and they climbed into the boat. Once Jesus was in the boat, the wind calmed and the waves relaxed. And the little fishing boat sailed quietly to the other side of the lake.

Today Jesus says to us, "Just keep your eyes on Me! I'm here to rescue you! You can't do it by yourself, but don't worry. I can save you! Just keep trusting Me."

*See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 381 (chapter 40, paragraph 16).



S A B B A T H

THINK

If possible, go with your family to a place where you can see boats in the water. Find a quiet place and share your lesson story. Ask: Why did Jesus walk on water? Why should we keep our eyes on Jesus?

DO

Tell someone about the string on your finger. Tie your extra string around their finger. Then tell them why Peter needed to keep his eyes on Jesus. Say: Let this string remind you that Jesus can save you, too.

PRAY

Thank Jesus for being willing to save you.

S U N D A Y

READ

Read Mark 6:45-51 during family worship. What is different about this record of the Bible lesson? Who needed to trust Jesus? What happened when Jesus got into the boat?

DRAW

Make a simple eye chart like one in a doctor's office. Take turns standing a good distance away, covering one eye at a time, and reading the letters. Do you need good eyesight to keep your eyes on Jesus? What does that really mean?

SING

Sing some praise songs, then thank Jesus for your eyes.

M O N D A Y

ASK

Ask an adult about a time they (or someone they know) were in a boat in a storm. What happened?

DO

Find the Sea of Galilee on a Bible map. Is it bigger or smaller than the lake nearest your home?

DRAW

Make a picture of a sailboat. On the sails, write the memory verse. Use this to teach the verse to your family. Thank God for His protection.

T U E S D A Y

READ

With your family, read the third record of our Bible story in John 6:16-21. How is this record different from Matthew 14:22-32? Ask: Why does the Bible record this story three times? What lessons do these three texts teach us?

DO

Have a family member look at something on the other side of the room. Ask them to walk straight to it without taking their eyes from it. Wave your arms as they walk. What happens? What might stop you from keeping your eyes on Jesus? What will help you? Ask Jesus to help you keep your eyes on Him.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO

For worship, set up an obstacle course for your family. Blindfold them one at a time and lead them through it. Do they trust you? Read the following texts together: Isaiah 12:2; Psalm 37:3-5; Psalm 62:8; Proverbs 3:5. Talk about why trust is so important. Whom do you trust to guide you?

SING

Sing songs about trusting God; then thank Him that you can do so.

T H U R S D A Y

READ

For worship with your family, read Psalm 91 together. What does God promise us? Ask an adult to tell about a time they couldn't do something for themselves. Whom did they ask for help? How does God feel about helping us?

DO

Name five things that are impossible for you to do, but not for God. Ask your family to help you write a letter to Jesus. Have each person add a sentence to thank Him for doing something they cannot do.

PRAY

Who can save us? Thank Jesus for that.



F R I D A Y

READ

If possible, read together *The Desire of Ages*, pages 380-382 (chapter 40, paragraphs 10-17 and 22). Then act out the story with your family.

DO

Play "God's Power Helps Me." The first person says, "God's power helps me [choose something God helps you do, such as be unselfish]." The next person says, "God's power helps me to be unselfish and do my chores well." The next person says, "God's power helps me to be unselfish, and do my chores well, and to be rescued like Peter." See how many times you can go around the circle and repeat all that has been said.

PRAY

Sing songs about God's power; then thank Him for it.

Peter often acted without first thinking about what might happen.



Walking on Water

PUZZLE

Directions: Follow the lines from each letter to a line and then write the letter on that line to find out the lesson Peter learned while walking on the Sea of Galilee.

