

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

1ST GRADE

TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 12

Jesus Walks on Water



Jesus Walks on Water

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will show the students the importance of focusing on Jesus in the midst of our problems through the story of Jesus walking on water.

Key Verses

Matthew 14:22-33—Main Teaching Passage
Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21 (Parallel Passage)

Memory Verse - Psalm 56:3

"Whenever I am afraid,
I will trust in You."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, John 6:51a.

Ask for two students as volunteers. Choose a fixed point in the classroom and tell the students that they will both try to walk toward it. However, one of the students has to close their eyes (make sure the path is clear so that they do not trip over anything). See which student gets closest.

It is much easier to walk toward something or someone when you keep your eyes on that person or thing. This will be key to notice in today's Bible story.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

After feeding the 5000 (our story last week), Jesus had become very popular, and some wanted to make Him king. However, this was not a part of His plan, so Jesus sent the disciples away by boat and then went up on a mountain to pray by Himself. Much like the story we looked at a few weeks ago, the disciples soon found themselves in the midst of a storm while they were out at sea. This time, however, Jesus was not with them.

Late at night (between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.), after they had spent hours trying to row to shore, the disciples saw someone walking on the water. At first they were afraid, thinking that this figure was some sort of ghost, but Jesus told them that it was Him, and that they did not have to be afraid. Peter asked the Lord, if it was really Him, to invite him to walk on the water to meet Him. Jesus did, and for a moment Peter was able to walk on the water, just like Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, Peter became afraid and started to sink. He asked Jesus to save him, and Jesus did, saying to Peter, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Then, as soon as they got back into the boat, the wind stopped. That immediately began a moment of worship, with the disciples realizing that Jesus had to be the Son of God. Jesus had once again proven His power over nature and delivered His disciples from a storm. In doing so, He had verified that what He said about His identity, that He is God's Son, is true.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Today's story is the second time Jesus saved His disciples while they were on a boat out at sea. There are a few differences between the two stories. In the first, He was on the boat the whole time and simply told the wind and waves to stop. This time, the disciples were alone at first and Jesus walked out on the water to meet them. When we studied the first storm story, we said that "storms" were good analogies for difficult times in our lives. Last time, our focus was on truths we should know about Jesus during storms (that He was able to fix the problem and that He cares about us). This time, we will look at our response.

Peter in this story showed both great faith and great failure. Once he recognized that it was Jesus out on the water, He was the only disciple who asked to meet Him out there. Then, when he stepped out, he was able to walk on the water with Jesus for a little while as long as he kept his eyes on the Lord. The problem came when he shifted his focus from Jesus to the storm around him. That's when he started to drown.

LOOK (Continued)

This story illustrates a profound truth about what we ought to do when we face difficult circumstances in life. When we find ourselves in one of life's "storms," we need to fix our eyes on Jesus. For Peter, that was a literal act. He actually needed to look at Jesus' physical body. We are not in the same situation as Peter, but in our trials, we ought to fix the eyes of our hearts on Him. In other words, we need to let our thoughts dwell upon how great, powerful, loving, and merciful God is.

Peter's problem arose when his eyes went off Jesus and onto the wind and waves. The same way, we run into issues when we look at how big our problem is instead of how big our God is. If our eyes are fixed on the temptations, diseases, trials, persecutions, or tests that we face, we may like Peter get scared and forget that our God is so much bigger. In those situations, our problems may seem bigger than us, but we can find peace and hope in remembering that while the storm may be bigger than us, it is not bigger than God. Anything that distracts us from God will cause us to fail in the midst of our storms. We need to make sure that our eyes are locked onto Jesus, not our problem. No matter what we face, we can take comfort in the fact that God can take care of it.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Psalm 56:3.

When we learned about Jesus calming the storm the first time, we saw two important truths about Jesus: that He cares about our problems and that He is able to fix them. Review this with the kids and ask how knowing these things is important when we try to fix our eyes on Jesus.

Pray: Thank the Lord for His power to help us in our problems. Ask Him to help us to fix our eyes on Him when we find ourselves in these situations.

Parent Question: When Peter tried walking on water, how did what he was focusing on affect what happened?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Matthew 14:22-33 by David Guzik

C. Jesus walks on the water and comforts His disciples.

1. ([Matthew 14:22-24](#)) Another storm on the Sea of Galilee.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

a. **Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat:** Jesus felt it was important for He and His followers to leave the area quickly. Perhaps this was to avoid the multitudes clinging to Him as a potential source of constant bread. Therefore, Jesus *compelled* (**made**) the disciples get into the boat.

i. Actually, there were several reasons why Jesus did this. He did this because He wanted to be alone to pray; because He wanted to escape the crowd and get some rest; and because He wanted the crowd to disperse so as to avoid a messianic uproar ([John 6:15](#)).

ii. [John 6:14-15](#) tells us that the crowd responded to the miraculous feeding with a rush of messianic expectation. If the disciples shared this enthusiasm — perhaps sensing that *now was the time* to openly promote Jesus as Messiah the King — then it was more important than ever for Jesus to get the disciples away from the excited crowd.

b. **He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray:** Jesus was jealous for time spent alone with His Father. In the midst of His great ministry to others, He did not — He could not — neglect prayer.

i. “Secret prayer fats the soul, as secret morsels feed the body.” (Trapp)

ii. “Whilst the disciples were periling, and well-nigh perishing, Christ was praying for them: so he still is for us, at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Trapp)

c. **The boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary:** The Sea of Galilee is well known for its sudden storms, and during this storm Jesus wasn’t in the boat with the disciples.

2. ([Matthew 14:25-27](#)) Jesus comes to both help and comfort His disciples.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they 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.”

a. **In the fourth watch of the night:** This was somewhere between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. According to Mark ([Mark 6:47-52](#)), Jesus came to the disciples when the boat was in the middle of the sea and after they had exhausted themselves rowing against the waves and windy storm.

b. **Jesus went to them, walking on the sea:** This walk on the water must have been quite a shock to the disciples; they were indeed **troubled** and **they cried out for fear**.

c. **Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid:** Jesus didn’t come to the disciples to trouble them or make them afraid. Therefore, He **immediately** spoke to them these comforting words.

i. There are two good reasons to put away fear. One reason may be that the problem is not nearly as bad as one had thought; perhaps you are afraid because you exaggerate the danger. The other reason is that even though the problem may be real, there is an even greater solution and help at hand.

3. ([Matthew 14:28-33](#)) Peter's bold move and subsequent lack of faith.

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?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

a. **Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water:** We have no idea what prompted Peter to ask such a question, but his faith in Jesus was remarkable. He really responded to Jesus' invitation and got out of the boat.

i. "Peter's protasis ('if it's you') is a real condition, almost 'since it's you.' The request is bold, but the disciples had been trained for some time and given power to do exactly the sort of miracles Jesus was doing ([Matthew 10:1](#)). What is more natural than for a fisherman who knew and respected the dangers of Galilee to want to follow Jesus in this new demonstration of supernatural power?" (Carson)

b. **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:** This is a wonderful picture of walking in faith, showing that Peter was able to do the miraculous as long as he looked to Jesus. When **he saw that the wind was boisterous**, he was troubled by fear and began to **sink**.

i. "Peter walked on the *water* but feared the *wind*: such is human nature, often achieving great things, and at fault in little things." (Bruce)

c. **Beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me":** Even when Peter failed, Jesus was there to save him. Peter knew who to call out to at the moment of crisis. Jesus then brought Peter back to the boat.

i. "What a sight! Jesus and Peter, hand in hand, walking upon the sea!" (Spurgeon)

d. **O you of little faith:** Once Jesus rescued Peter, He spoke to Peter about his **little faith**. This **little faith** led to the doubt and distraction that made Peter sink under the wind and the waves.

i. "It was not the violence of the winds, nor the raging of the waves, which endangered his life, but his *littleness of faith*." (Clarke)

ii. "THERE is only one word in the original for the phrase, 'O thou of little faith.' The Lord Jesus virtually addresses Peter by the name of 'Little-faith,' in one word." (Spurgeon)

iii. Peter here shows us the weakness of **little faith**.

- Little faith is often found in places where we might expect great faith.
- Little faith is far too eager for signs.
- Little faith is apt to have too high an opinion of its own power.
- Little faith is too much affected by its surroundings.
- Little faith is too quick to exaggerate the peril.

iv. Yet Peter also shows us some of the strengths of **little faith**.

- Little faith is true faith.
- Little faith will obey the word of Jesus.

- Little faith struggles to come to Jesus.
- Little faith will accomplish great things for a time.
- Little faith will pray when it is in trouble.
- Little faith is safe, because Jesus is near.

v. “You do believe, and if you believe, why doubt? If faith, why *little* faith? If you doubt, why believe? And if you believe, why doubt?” (Spurgeon)

e. **Why did you doubt:** Jesus only asked this question once Peter was rescued. Yet at that point it was an entirely reasonable question to ask. Why *did* Peter doubt?

i. “*Doubt* is literally ‘be divided in two’; true faith is single-mindedly focused on Jesus.” (France)

ii. “If you believe a thing you want evidence, and before you doubt a thing you ought to have evidence too. To believe without evidence is to be credulous, and to doubt without evidence is to be foolish. We should have ground for our doubts as well as a basis for our faith.” (Spurgeon)

iii. We can say that in theory, there might be reasons for doubting Jesus and His promises.

- If on former occasions, you have found God unfaithful to His promise.
- If some old follower of Jesus has solemnly told you that God cannot be trusted.
- If your problem is a new one and so extremely difficult that it is certain that God cannot help you.
- If God has abolished His promises, and made them no longer valid.
- If God has changed.

iv. “Our doubts are unreasonable: ‘*Wherefore didst thou doubt?*’ If there be reason for little faith, there is evidently reason for great confidence. If it be right to trust Jesus at all, why not trust him altogether?” (Spurgeon)

v. It is useful for us to confront our doubts.

- Was there good reason for your doubt?
- Was there any good excuse for it?
- Did any good come from your doubt?

f. **Those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him:** They moved quickly from fearing the storm to worshipping Jesus. This was a logical reaction considering the power Jesus showed in walking on the water, and the love He showed in taking care of a sinking Peter.

i. “This is the first time we meet with so plain and open an acknowledgement of his being *the Son of God*.” (Poole)