

Jesus Walks on Water - Jesus is Near!

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:22–36, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16–21

Memory Verse of the Week: “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20 (CSB)

Storytelling Video

Click [HERE](#) to watch this week's Kids Worship video.

Discussion & Activities

Review the story with your children. Use the image below to review the story in creative and unique ways that you know your child will enjoy. Use a Bible to read this story straight from God's Word as you review it. Encourage your reading-age children to practice using their own Bibles!



Story Overview:

After He fed the crowd of over 5,000 people, Jesus sent His disciples back across the lake in a boat. He took time to pray alone. Just before dawn, the disciples were still rowing against a very strong wind that made the waves toss them to and fro. They must have been tired after rowing against the wind and waves all night. At that moment, Jesus came walking on the water to His disciples. Peter boldly stepped into the water, but quickly began to doubt because of the strong wind and waves, and began to sink. At that moment, Jesus reached out and rescued Peter as he was sinking.

Discussion Questions:

Adapt and ask these questions to fit your children's ages and developmental levels.

1. **How do you think the disciples felt in the middle of the storm?** Matthew 14:24; John 6:16–18
2. **How would you have felt if you had been Peter stepping out onto the water?** Matthew 14:28–29
3. **If you had been in Peter's shoes, would you have walked on water to Jesus?**
4. **Why did Peter start to sink? What does "doubt" mean?** Matthew 14:30
5. **Why can hard times be a good thing sometimes?** Romans 5:3–4; James 1:2–4
6. **How can we know that Jesus is near to us and how can we be near to him?**

Prayer of Blessing

Bless each child individually by going around and gently placing your hand on their head or shoulder saying:

May you know that God is near you as you go through hard times. May He give you patience, peace, and joy, and may your faith grow as you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

Take this time to pray with and for you children. Allow them to share prayer requests, pray for each other, and pray their and others specific prayer requests.

Craft: Letters of Reminding

SUPPLIES

Bible, paper, markers/pens/drawing and writing materials, misc. decorating materials

CREATE

Earlier, we talked about how Jesus and Peter walked on water. Even though Jesus was there with him, Peter still became distracted by the wind and waves. When he took his eyes off Jesus, he was in danger—sinking into the waves. But,

of course, Jesus was so close to Peter that Jesus only needed to reach out His hand and save him. Peter's struggle is similar to the struggles we have in our lives. Even though our struggles might be scary (a worldwide pandemic, parents divorcing, people who are sick, moving to a new place), we know God is near. We can have faith that He is always with us.

Give each child a sheet of construction paper or card stock. Have an older child or adult look up these passages and read them out loud: Psalm 136:1; Psalm 139:1–6; Psalm 34:17–18; Psalm 16:11.

Then discuss: **What do these verses tell us about God? How do we know God is near? How can these verses help us trust God? How does it make you feel to know that God is near you?**

Each person is going to write/draw a card to themselves as a reminder that Jesus is near and that God loves them. In the letters and on the cards, have them write or draw about what they learned today and some words of encouragement about how Jesus is near to them. Help them think of truths about God, such as “God loves me” or “God is with me” or “Jesus died for me.” Afterward, they can decorate the letters and cards.

When the kids finish, suggest they place their cards somewhere special. Remind them that when they're having a bad day, they can look at their cards and remember that Jesus is near.

Connection Challenge: If you have time, have the kids think of other people who might need letters or cards of encouragement and reminding. Give your kids the option to serve others by writing them letters or cards too. You can mail them or drop them off together this week.

Activity: Crossing the Water

SUPPLIES

Blue sheet, blanket, or tarp, optional: boats, sea animals, anything else to go “in the water”

PLAY

Invite your family members to stand around the tarp, sheet, or blanket and grab along the edges. Have them hold the tarp close to the ground and shake it to make large, wave-like ripples—their own “storm” on a body of water. Then take turns walking “across the water” while everyone continues to shake it. You can reenact the story and take turns having someone be Jesus and someone be Peter. Optional: Toss in bouncy balls or beanbags to make the storm more chaotic. Take this activity outside and get some squirt guns or a water hose involved too!