

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? Who watches over you when you go swimming? A long time ago Jesus watched Peter try to walk on water. Read on to find out what happened.

I still can't believe what happened today!" Peter shook his head. He was remembering how Jesus had fed the huge crowd that day. "Just a few loaves and some fish!" he exclaimed. "And Jesus made that go far enough to feed thousands of people!"

"It was amazing!" John added. "I never thought I would see something like that!"

The disciples kept talking as the boat quietly sailed along. They spoke of the miracles of the day. How they wished Jesus would let the people crown Him king! But at the end of the day, Jesus had sent the disciples away. "Go ahead," He had said. "Go across the lake in the boat." Then Jesus had sent the people home, and 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. Before long, all talk was

swallowed up in the noise of the storm. The experienced fishermen strained at the oars. They pulled harder and harder, but the storm was stronger than they were.

The storm continued raging through the night. Even so, the disciples continued rowing and pulled far away from shore. In the middle of the night, Jesus saw their struggles. The wind pushed the waves higher and higher. And Jesus decided to go to them.

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

"Someone is walking on top of the water!" 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!"

The disciples were so shocked that no one spoke for a moment.

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. He smiled encouragement as Peter swung his leg over the side of the boat.



The Message

By keeping our eyes on
Jesus we are saved.

Memory Verse

“What is impossible
with men is possible
with God”

(Luke 18:27, NIV).



Looking at Jesus, Peter 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 must have been thinking, *Hey! 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. "Jesus!" 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.

"Why did you lose your faith, Peter?" asked Jesus. "You only needed to keep your eyes on Me." He put His arm around the now-quiet disciple, 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. Who 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 thinking first 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.



A word search puzzle consisting of a grid of dashed lines. Below the grid, the letters e, j, k, n, o, p, r, s, u, y are listed. Colored lines connect each letter to a specific point on the top dashed line, creating a complex web of paths that cross each other.