

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 14:25-34



The STORY

Read about Jesus walking on water in Matthew 14:27-34.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What made the disciples in the boat afraid? (Jesus, in the middle of a storm, came out to them walking on the water.)
- Why did they think Jesus was a ghost? (They could see that it was Jesus but they still did not understand that Jesus was God and all-powerful over the earth.)
- What did they do when Jesus made it on to the boat? (They worshipped Jesus as God.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jesus extending his hand out to a frightful Peter while they are walking on the water. Engage the children by asking:

- Why was Peter afraid? (Peter was afraid because he was sinking.)
- What did he cry out to Jesus? (Lord, save me.)
- What did Jesus do to save Peter? (Jesus reached out his hand and then corrected Peter because he doubted and did not believe.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Who here knows how to swim? Who is afraid of water? (Some children will know how to swim but most might not. Let them tell you about their experiences.)
- Can anyone here walk on water? Why not? (Of course, the children should answer that no one can walk on water. Without getting into the science in detail, just tell them that all people normally sink.)
- If people can't walk on water, how did Jesus do it? (Listen to their answers and ultimately share with them that He is God and is in control of all things, even water.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Jesus was no ordinary man. He was more than a great teacher. Jesus was God.

When the disciples on the boat saw Jesus walk on the stormy waves they worshipped Him as God. Little did they know this same Jesus, who had power over the wind and the waves, who could walk on water and heal all the sicknesses of those who came to Him, would soon die on the cross for our sins.

In this story, Peter cries out, "Lord, save me." His words were more profound than he could realize. In our lives, the storm is one of our own sin. We are separated from God and need to cry out with those same words, "Lord, save me." Just like with Peter, the Lord extends His hand to save and delivers us safely to the shores of heaven.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.