

## Jesus Walks on Water

Topics: Keep Focused, Facing Fears

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-23

Simple Supplies: You'll need a Bible, a blue sheet, and two robes.

Open your Bible to Matthew 14, and show the children the words. Say, **Today's Bible story is about Peter, one of Jesus' close friends, getting out of a boat and walking toward Jesus on the water. Let's act it out so we can see what this exciting event might have looked like.** Ask one child to be "Jesus" and another to be "Peter." Give them each a robe to wear. Spread out the blue sheet in front of them, and ask two kids to hold opposite ends. Ask the two kids to wiggle the sheet gently, close to the floor, so it looks like waves. Tell the rest of the kids that they are the disciples in the boat. Have Peter stay with the crowd until his cue to walk on the water. **Well, the disciples were in their boat rowing across a lake. They were rowing hard.** Have the children pretend to row a boat. **They're working very hard! The disciples looked across the water—it was stormy and dark, so they had to squint.** Have the children pretend to look across the water.

**They saw someone walking on the water! The person was walking toward them. The disciples were extremely surprised!** Have the children make a surprised face. **But they were also afraid because they thought they were seeing a ghost!** Have the children make a scared face and then say, "It's a ghost!"

**But the person walking on the water in the storm was none other than Jesus himself. He yelled out to them, "take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."** Have the child who is playing Jesus walk in the middle of the blue sheet as the children continue to make waves. Have him or her speak to the children.

**So many surprises! First the disciples see someone actually walking on water, then they find out it is Jesus himself, and now they get another surprise. Peter, one of the disciples, stood up and said, "If it's you, tell me to come to you on the water!"** Have the child you chose to be Peter stand up and say the words above. Ask:

- **What do you think the other disciples thought about what Peter said?**
- **What do you think you would have done if you were in the boat?**

Say: **But that was not all the surprises for the disciples. There is no way they thought Jesus would have Peter get out of the boat and into that water. But—surprise!—Jesus told Peter, "Come!"** Have Jesus tell Peter to come.

**The disciples watched in amazement while Peter got out of the boat and started walking toward Jesus! At first Peter looked at Jesus while he was walking. Everything was going great. The disciples were even more surprised because Peter was actually walking on the water, just like Jesus.** Have your Jesus and Peter act this out.

**But then Peter started looking at the waves around him. The waves were getting bigger! And bigger! And the wind started blowing around him.** Have everyone make noises like the wind and move the sheet up and down a little stronger.

**Peter became so scared, because he had taken his eyes off of Jesus and he started to sink. Peter yelled out, “Lord save me!”** Have your Peter start to kneel down and call out.

**But Jesus immediately reached out and caught him. Jesus pulled Peter up, and both of them climbed into the boat.** Have both children act out what you said.

Gather the robes and sheet, and applaud the actors and actresses. Ask:

- **Why did Peter start to sink?**
- **When have you been afraid?**
- **How can you stay focused on Jesus the next time you’re afraid?**

Say: **Peter started to sink when he took his eyes off Jesus. We might face scary times like when a grandparent dies or when we have to go to a new school. But if we focus on Jesus, pray to him, and tell him our fears, he’ll comfort us.**

Close by praying, **Dear God, please hear us as we silently tell you something we’re afraid of. Pause. Help us keep our eyes on you and know that you will comfort us. You are always with us. Thanks for helping Peter, and thanks for helping us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



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