



Jesus Walks on Water

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Matthew 14:22-36; Mark 6:45-56; John 6:16-24

While Jesus was on earth, He did many amazing things to show His love and to help people understand the Kingdom of God. This story occurs just after Jesus miraculously fed over 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. He is the Great Provider, and this week, we're going to learn that when we keep our eyes on Him, He provides us with His power to do things that are impossible!



Day #1: I Am Here

Jesus sent His disciples away on a boat while He went the other direction to a mountain top to pray. While He was praying, His disciples were in the boat, and a strong wind came. The disciples were rowing against heavy waves in the middle of the night.

Even though Jesus was not with His disciples, He knew exactly what was happening. There is no place and no situation where Jesus can not see us.

✝ *Even in darkness I cannot hide from You. To You the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to You.* - Psalm 139:12 NLT

Jesus ALWAYS knows what we're facing, and when His friends were in trouble, He walked on the water right up to their boat! Now remember, the disciples had been rowing and rowing; they were exhausted! And by this point, it was dark and windy. So when they saw Jesus walking on the water towards them, they were terrified. Why do you think they were afraid? Mark 6:52 tells us that they didn't yet understand who Jesus really was.

But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" - Matthew 14:27 NLT

Jesus brings peace, and He told His disciples not to be afraid. How kind it was for Jesus to speak these words of comfort to His frightened disciples. Though they were in a storm, Jesus was right beside them.

✱ You will never be in a situation where Jesus does not go with you! Remember His words. Don't be afraid, because He is there.

Jesus said, *"And be sure of this: **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age."* - Matthew 28:20b

Day #2: Walking on Water

When Jesus told His disciples to get into their boat and cross the Sea of Galilee, they obeyed. Because the disciples were where Jesus told them to be, they would soon see God's power doing the impossible.

Peter recognized Jesus' voice near the boat.

✝ *"Lord, is it You?" Peter asked. "If it is, tell me to come to You on the water."*

"Come," Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. - Matthew 14:29

Jesus had the power to walk on water. When Peter kept His eyes on Jesus, Jesus gave Peter the power to walk on the water also! With his eyes on Jesus, Peter was able to do the impossible!

Imagine the faith it took for Peter to step out onto the stormy sea! He had faith – he was certain that Jesus would not let him fall. Romans 10:17 says that faith comes from hearing Jesus' word. Peter heard Jesus' word, "Come," and he had the faith to step out and come to Jesus.

✱ When you hear God's word, when you step out in faith, and when you keep your focus on Jesus, He will do amazing things through you. You will do things that you could never have done on your own. You will love people who seem unlovable; you will have peace when it seems impossible. This is what life in the kingdom of God is all about.

Remember that the Lord is always with you. Keep your eyes on Him. Know that it is His great joy to use you in amazing ways! Have faith that Jesus will give you all the power to do anything He wants you to do (Hebrews 13:20-21).

Day #3: Waves of Doubt

Focusing is bringing all your attention to one certain thing. We must each choose what we focus our hearts and minds on.

Out on the lake, with no boat under his feet, Peter had a choice to make. Peter could either keep his eyes focused on Jesus, the Designer of every molecule in that lake, or he could focus on the storm around

Day #3 continued:

him. Peter took his eyes off Jesus and he began to sink.



But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, "Lord! Save me!"

Right away Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. "Your faith is so small!" He said. "Why did you doubt Me?" - Matthew 14:31

When Peter looked at the wind and waves, he began to **doubt** if Jesus was more powerful than the storm that surrounded him. Doubt keeps us from standing firm (James 1:6). Doubt is the opposite of faith. The only cure for doubt is to grow in your faith! Remember, faith comes from believing God's Word (Romans 10:17).



Jesus is more powerful than any storm! And He **FREELY** pours out His power and protection to all who have faith in Him. When you focus on Him, you'll see that He is **FAR** greater than any storm you might go through.

When you find yourself doubting that God is **BIG** enough to carry you through your storm, get into His Word. Read the stories of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This will help you keep your focus on Jesus' grace and power!

Day #4: "Do Over"

You may have played a game where you have called out, "Do Over!" to redo a part of the game in which you did poorly. Did you know that God has a "do over" plan? When we fail to keep our eyes on Jesus, when we lack the faith we need, He gives us another opportunity, and another, and another, and another...

Read Matthew 14:31 again (from Day #3). When Peter took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink, what did Jesus do? Jesus reached out and grabbed Peter! Jesus didn't let Peter sink because he lacked faith. No! Jesus reached out His hand of grace to catch Peter.

Ephesians 1:7-8 says that God lavishes the riches of His grace on us. God doesn't give us just a little grace; He pours out buckets and buckets of grace on us!

Peter's name wasn't always Peter. His parents named him Simon. But Jesus changed his name to Peter - which means "rock." Jesus told Peter that he was like a solid rock on which Jesus would build His church body (Matthew 16:18).

Certainly, Peter didn't feel like a solid, faith-filled believer as he began to sink in the lake that day. But Jesus would soon give him another opportunity to trust

Day #4 continued:

in Him, and another, and another...

In time, God used Peter to preach the truth of Jesus to thousands of people. Even when faced with prison and death, Peter had the faith to trust in Jesus and bring others into God's kingdom.



When you fail to have faith, know that God wants to give you another opportunity to trust Him, and another, and another, and another...



Great is (God's) faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning. - Lamentations 3:23 NLT

Day #5: Son of God!

Go outside and find a rock. How does it feel? What happens if you run water over it? Does the water sink into it? No, the rock is too hard for anything to sink into it.

Before the storm, the disciples did not yet believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Mark puts it this way: "Their hearts were too hard to take it in." (Mark 6:52 NLT) But Jesus did not give up on these men. He pursued their hearts! He sent them into the storm so they would learn more about Him, and their faith would grow.



When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, "You really are the Son of God!" - Matthew 14:32-33

Even though Peter had some doubt, he had enough faith to get out of the boat in the first place. Jesus said it only takes a little faith to move mountains! (Matthew 17:20) And these men's hearts had been hard - like mountains.

It was all by God's grace that each of these men had been chosen, placed in the boat, sent into the storm, and witnesses of Jesus' power and forgiveness. These men did not earn the right to be loved by Jesus. Jesus poured out His grace and love on them even when their hearts were hard. Only God's love is powerful enough to seep into a hard heart, and make it soft. By the end of this trip, the men were praising God out of the overflow of their softened hearts.



God's love is amazing and powerful! By grace, He pours out His love on us, even though we don't deserve it (Romans 5:8).

Put your name in this verse:

How great is the love the Father has given _____ so freely! (1 John 1:3a, modified)