

Jesus Walks on Water

Mark 6:45-52

MEMORY VERSE

MARK 6:50b

"Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Paper plates, crayons or markers, tongue depressors, various colored construction paper cut into triangles and pipe cleaners (optional).

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Boats

You will need a paper plate for each child in your class. You will also need crayons and/or markers. Instruct each child to fold their paper plate in half. Allow them to color the outside of the boats. Set the boat on its rounded edges, so that it rocks back and forth. Glue one to two tongue depressors to the center of the bended edge of the paper plate (to make a mast for the boat). Poke the tongue depressor through the paper plate and glue it to the inside of the plate. Next, glue some triangles, cut from construction paper, to make sails.

If time allows, as an option, the children can make some people for their boat. Using pipe cleaners they can make a head, body, and arms. Make a few small holes in the crease of the paper plate and glue the bottom of the pipe cleaner to the inside of the paper plate.

Explain to your class that there is a boat in our story today that the disciples were on. While they were in the boat, a storm struck that made them very afraid, but they learned that **We need to completely trust in Jesus.**

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we will learn about the time that Jesus walked on water. This is one of the most famous stories about Jesus in the Bible, and there are a lot of things that we can learn from it. Today, we will see that **we need to completely trust in Jesus.**

MARK 6:45

Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away.

The disciples had joined with Jesus in serving the multitude dinner. Jesus had multiplied the loaves and the fish and over 5,000 people had been fed. The last few days had been full of miracles and ministry for the disciples. And this day was to be the best of them all. It had been a long day, and the disciples were probably tired.

The crowd that Jesus had been ministering to was so excited about the things that they had witnessed Jesus do. In fact, they got so excited that they wanted to declare Him king right then and there! The disciples also wanted to do the same thing (John 16:14, 15). This way, Jesus would then be king, and they could be leaders with Him. But it was not God's will that Jesus should be crowned king at this time; instead, Jesus told them to get into the boat and go to the other side of the sea, to a place called Bethsaida.

Why did Jesus tell the disciples to get into the boat? They could have talked with the crowd, shaken a few hands, and had fun for a while longer. He made them get into the boat because He knew what the temptation would be to stay on the seashore with the crowd and the celebration. There was still work to do, and Jesus did not want the disciples getting too comfortable. They would have probably camped right there if they could have because it is

always comfortable on the mountaintop with a bunch of people who think you are pretty neat.

Maybe you have been to a friend's birthday party that was awesome, and you did not want it to end. But a few days later you were back in school or doing chores at home or something else. The party can not go on forever, no matter how much we would like it to.

Reality reminds us that we need to be in school bright and early the next day. There were many more things that the disciples needed to learn. Jesus was preparing them for a great work. There would be more work to do in the morning. So the time came for them to go on ahead of Jesus.

Jesus knew that it was not His time to be king. His kingdom was to be established with His death on the cross. He was to suffer, not celebrate. He was to be beaten and hung on a cross, not sit on a throne and be fed and fanned by His disciples. His disciples were also to suffer for this kingdom. It was time for the disciples to go on in their training.

Red Light/Green Light

Play a game of Red Light/Green Light with your class. Have your whole class line up against one wall. Stand on the opposite wall and shout "Green Light!" The children must quickly walk toward you as far as possible before you shout, "Red Light!" Then they must stop and stand perfectly still.

If any children move while they should be still, have them sit out until the next round.

The first child to reach the other side gets to be the "Red Light/Green Light" person. Use this as an example of how the

disciples needed to obey and trust Jesus. Jesus was about to teach them a very valuable lesson in trusting in Him.

O.K., It is time to get back into the lesson boat...

Only Jesus gets the glory. After Jesus sent the disciples on their way across the Sea of Galilee; He sent the multitude away. Only Jesus can handle the praise and adoration of man. Man is not supposed to receive it. He does not deserve it. We should always point to Jesus with our praise. When people give you praise, you need to remember that without Jesus "you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Let's remember to give praise, glory, and worship where it is deserved, lifted up to Jesus' name.

MARK 6:46b

...He departed to the mountain to pray.

Jesus is praying for you. While the disciples were out rowing their boat, Jesus was praying for them. He knew they would have to learn to have faith in Him because He was not going to be with them always. This is the second time Jesus had allowed them to go through a storm. The first time He was with them in the boat, but this time Jesus could not be seen.

Even though we sometimes feel like we are all alone, we are never truly alone as long as we have Jesus. Heb 7:25 says, "Therefore He [Jesus] is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Jesus is always near the Father, interceding (praying) for us. If you are going through a tough time today, maybe your family is going through struggles or sufferings, remember that Jesus is praying for you; **we need to completely trust in Jesus**. Have faith in Jesus to bring you through the storm.

Take Time to Pray

Ask your students to share with the class any of the storms they are going through. Make this a time for prayer requests. Do not force any children to share who are not comfortable sharing. Also be sensitive to issues of appropriateness in the class as the children share. Sometimes, children may share issues happening in their lives that might be better shared privately with a coordinator or pastor. Be sensitive to the needs.

Pray for these requests out-loud with your students. This is a chance for you to model intercessory prayer for your kids. They can learn from watch/listening to you that prayer is simply talking to God, and one of the greatest things we can do as prayer warriors is to pray for each other. Share Philippians 4:6-7 with your class and explain how God takes our burdens and replaces them with peace.

MARK 6:47-48

Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land.

Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by.

Sometimes life is like rowing against the wind. It says that Jesus came to them during the “fourth watch of the night.” What is the “fourth watch of the night mean? Does it mean that Jesus had broken three watches that night and was going on His fourth? No! It means it was late at night, probably around three in the morning. At this late hour, Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water.

The disciples were exhausted from rowing against the wind. They were afraid they would be overcome by the storm. Sometimes it seems like Jesus is going to be too late. But just when we are

completely exhausted, He miraculously comes to our aid, walking on the water to rescue us. We need to completely trust in Jesus.

Why does Jesus wait so long? Why doesn't He come sooner? First: He is teaching us to trust in His strength and not our own. Second: God's ways are not our ways. He is perfect. We need to trust that He will do His will in His time.

We also need to trust that He will always do what is best for us. Remember that it is the storms in life that make us strong. The disciples were being prepared for their lives as missionaries. They would go out all over the world to tell people that Jesus died for them, that He loves them and has made a way for them to go to heaven. This was only preparing their faith for that time.

MARK 6:49

But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out...

Jesus walked on the water. Jesus came out to them walking on the water. Have you ever seen someone walk on water? Probably not! If you were out in the middle of the ocean at night, you would find it dark and windy; there is nothing but water in sight. Imagine that you are with the disciples in the boat when all of a sudden you see someone walking on the water toward you. What would you do?

You would probably do what the disciples did; you would panic. They thought they were seeing a ghost. All kinds of things probably ran through their minds. But we need to remember that Jesus can do anything, even walk on the water. **We need to completely trust in Jesus.**

MARK 6:50

...for they all saw Him and were troubled. And immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Do you know Jesus' voice? The disciples were afraid, but Jesus was trying to teach them how not to be afraid. He said to them, "Be of good cheer!" They heard Jesus' voice and recognized it was Him on the water. Do you know Jesus' voice? Do you know when God speaks to you and listen to Him? John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

We need to learn to hear the voice of God. He often chooses to speak to us through His Word. The Bible is God's voice to us. If we learn it and memorize it and hide it in our hearts, we will be everything God wants us to be (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:11). Then we will know what to do when we go through the storms of life.

"It Is I..."

Send several students out of the room. One by one have them crack the door and speak into the room, "Be of good cheer: it is I: be not afraid." Make sure the other children can't see who it is. See how well the remaining students in the classroom can recognize their voices.

Do we recognize Jesus' voice?

The disciples were glad to see Jesus. Jesus cheered them up just by letting them know that He was with them. We need to be happy and to keep a joyful heart in good times and bad times because we know Jesus is with us. Jesus said, "I'll never leave nor forsake you..." (Hebrews 13:5).

MARK 6:51-52

Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.

For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

Did you forget His miracles? The disciples failed their test that night, but they did learn a valuable lesson. **We need to completely trust in Jesus.** They should have known that if Jesus could feed 5,000 men with five loaves of bread and two fish, He could certainly take care of them in the middle of a storm. Instead of calling on Jesus for help they strained against the wind in their own strength. Let's remember to call on Jesus whenever we need help; He is worthy of our trust.

One other note concerning this story found in Matthew 14:22-33 is the story of Peter. When Peter saw Jesus, he cried out, "Lord, if that is you bid me to come out with you." And Jesus said, "Come!" So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water towards Jesus. He was doing it!

But as the wind blew and the rain beat down, he began to take his eyes off of Jesus. As soon as he took his eyes off Jesus and put them on the storm instead, he began to sink. Then he cried out, "Lord, save me!" And the Lord reached out and saved him.

We learn a valuable lesson from Peter. When we completely trust in Jesus, we will not need to look at the storms of life but can focus on Jesus. We do not need to look at or worry about the problems or the scary things around us. We will only sink. But when we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can do amazing things in the midst of scary storms. It is wonderful to know that even when we get ourselves into scary situations (like Peter on the water) the Lord is still there to rescue us.

Let's put all of our trust and faith in Jesus! Only He is worthy of our trust. Do not put your trust in money or things. Remember how much Jesus loves you and wants to help you; you can trust Him for everything. **We need to completely trust in Jesus.**

God is Still a God of Miracles

Share a miracle that God has done in your life and how God promises to show Himself strong on our behalf (2Chronicles 16:9). Share how it impacted your relationship with the Lord.

Have some of your class volunteer to share some things He has done for them.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the great things God has done. Thank Him for still being a God of miracles. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.