

LESSON 22

# Jesus Walks on Water

MATTHEW 14:25-34



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

**JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD WHO SAVES**

**LESSON SNAPSHOT**

**1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Matthew 14:22–36 from the Scriptures or read story 100, “Jesus Walks on Water,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Walking on Water**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a large roasting pan
- ✓ tarp
- ✓ two small sewing needles
- ✓ tissue paper
- ✓ a small glass
- ✓ a bucket to carry water

**4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION**

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

**5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Drawing Out Their Doubts**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class—provide several with concordances

**6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

**7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Sinking in the Water**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

**8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**A Second Miracle**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class

**TOTAL 70 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**Jesus prayed in his humanity**—After feeding the multitude Jesus dismissed the crowds and made the disciples go on without him so that he could pray alone. Though Jesus was God, he lived a human life of dependence upon his Father in heaven. He did nothing of his own accord but only that which the Father directed him to do (John 5:19). Jesus often withdrew alone to pray after ministering to the crowds (Luke 5:15–16). Jesus’ example should guide us as we look to follow God. We have no greater weapon than prayer and no greater joy than our fellowship with God.

**Jesus saved in his divinity**—With the wind blowing against them, the disciples’ journey to the other side of the sea was slow. Unlike the last time there was a rough sea, Jesus was not with them in the boat to calm the wind and the waves. Suddenly they saw Jesus walking toward them on the waves. Terrified, they thought he was a ghost, but Peter called out, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus told him to come. It took faith to step out of the boat and into the waves. As long as his eyes were fixed on Jesus the sea remained solid under Peter’s feet, but as soon as he became afraid and doubted, Peter began to sink and called out to the Lord to save him. Jesus, without hesitation, reached out and caught him, saving his friend. Jesus demonstrated once again that he was no ordinary man: he was Lord over all and had come to save.

**Jesus the Son of God is worthy of worship**—When Jesus got into the boat, the wind died down and the disciples worshiped him saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” They had heard the demons call Jesus the Son of God (Matthew 8:29), but now they too were realizing that the man in their boat was no ordinary man. He could calm the storm, heal the sick, multiply the bread and the fish, and even walk on water. He was God. Once reaching shore, Jesus continued to heal. Mark records that wherever Jesus went, people brought their sick, and all who touched Jesus were healed (Mark 6:56).

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

#### *The Sea of Galilee*

This body of water is sometimes called the lake of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1) or the Sea of Tiberias (John 6:1). It has a shape similar to the continent of Africa and is about thirteen miles long and eight miles wide. The cities of Tiberias and Capernaum are both situated on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Tiberias is on the western shore and Capernaum is to the north. Surrounded by mountains, the Sea of Galilee is known for its storms, which form when cold air from the mountains flows down and hits the warmer air over the water.

## Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus was no ordinary man. He was more than a great teacher: Jesus was, and is, God. When the disciples in the boat saw Jesus walk on the stormy waves, they worshiped him as God. Little did they know that 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 their sins.

If Jesus had not been God, he should have rebuked the disciples for worshiping him. But Jesus did not correct them. There, in the middle of the sea, Jesus received the worship of the disciples.

In this story, Peter cried out, "Lord, save me." His words were more profound than he could realize. Our own sin separates us from God. We need to cry out with those same words: "Lord, save me." As he did with Peter, the Lord extends his hand to save and deliver us safely to the shore of heaven.

### THE LESSON

#### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

#### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Matthew 14:22–36 from the Scriptures or read story 100, "Jesus Walks on Water," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1** . . . . . **10 MIN****Walking on Water****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a large roasting pan
- ✓ tarp
- ✓ two small sewing needles
- ✓ tissue paper
- ✓ a small glass
- ✓ a bucket to carry water

Prior to class, lightly grease a large roasting pan and fill it with water to a depth of one inch. Place it level in a freezer until needed. Just before class, pop out the ice and place it in a cooler. Bring the cooler, roasting pan, tissue paper, a bucket of water, needles, and small glass in to class.

Place the glass on a table and fill it with water and have the class gather around. Tell them you know a trick that will make things that usually sink in water float. Begin by showing them how a sewing needle will sink when placed randomly in the water. Then tell them you will make it float. The key is not to break the surface tension of the water. Rip off a small piece of tissue and drop it flat on the surface of the water inside the glass. Then lay one of the needles on top of the tissue. Carefully sink the tissue with the second needle until it drops to the bottom. If you are careful, the needle will remain floating on the surface of the water!

Then read the story of Jesus walking on the water. After you finish reading the story, fill the roasting pan with water, hold up a large piece of tissue, and ask for a volunteer who is not afraid to get their shoes wet. Explain that you have figured out how to enable a person to walk on water. (Hide the ice up to this point. You want their focus to be on the roaster full of water to fool them.)

Talk it up and then, after your volunteer comes forward, reach into the cooler, pick up the ice, lay it on the floor, and ask them to stand on it. Then have them take little baby steps on the ice. Once again, like a circus ringmaster, talk up your achievement—how you figured out how to get a person to walk on water.

After the joking has died down, talk to them seriously about Jesus' incredible power as Creator and Lord over all the earth.

Call their attention to Peter's faith crisis and the words he used to call out to Jesus. Then share the gospel and connect our need to be saved by Jesus as well.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION**

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Drawing Out Their Doubts**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class—provide several with concordances

Take time after reading the passage to make a list of the doubts that can affect us today. Draw out the children about ways they have personally doubted. List them on the whiteboard. Then divide the class into groups of five or six and have them find at least one Scripture that could help a person with a particular doubt. If they need some clues for verses, have them look in the Psalms or look up the words “faith,” “trust,” and “help,” in the concordances.

Gather the class back together and have each group read the Scripture they suggest as you review each listed doubt. If there are any that stump the class, offer your own answer. If you are also stumped, assign them to ask their parents and come prepared to the next class with an answer. Draw out others yourself, and come prepared to review the answer the following week.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Sinking in the Water**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of Peter sinking and the Lord reaching out to save him. Have the children write Peter’s words—“Lord, save me”—across the top of the page. Then talk about why Peter’s words are the same words we need to use to call out to Jesus.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**A Second Miracle**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class

Read John's account of Jesus walking on the water from John 6:16–21. Tell the class that some people believe that John's account of Jesus walking on water reveals a second miracle. Have them look at the text and see if they can find it. (In verse 21, John reports that after the disciples took Jesus into the boat, they were immediately transported to shore. Verse 19 says they had rowed three to three-and-a-half miles when Jesus arrived. The distance between Capernaum and Tiberias is a little over six miles. So, if they were immediately transported to shore, it would have been a miracle. John, who wrote this account, would have been on that boat.)