

General Church Education



Jesus Walking on the Sea

Matthew 14:22-36

Lesson 19

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA

MATTHEW 14:22-36

Many of the Lord's miracles were witnessed by onlookers who spread the word about His power. The astonishing miracle in today's story was for the disciples alone. It is one of the most dramatic scenes in the Word.

Peter loved the Lord and was eager to go to Him. It is extraordinary that he started walking on the sea to meet Jesus. Peter began to sink when he lost faith in the Lord. After they were safely in the boat and the Lord had calmed the wind, the disciples acknowledged Him to be the "Son of God."

This miracle increased the disciples' faith in the Lord, although they did not yet recognize Him as God Almighty. The power and compassion in this story can also increase our faith when we, like Peter, "walk" to the Lord by living according to His Word. There were times after this when their faith wavered. However throughout the rest of His time in this world, the Lord was gently leading them to see that He was God Incarnate.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The Lord is always close by. When we feel alone and frightened we may not recognize His comforting presence. But we can remember His words, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."
- The miracle of Peter walking on the sea gives us a glimpse of the inner capabilities that the Lord gives us when our faith, standing on the truths of the Word, expresses itself in loving actions.
- When we are trying to follow the Lord, our effort opens the door for Him to rescue us when we inevitably falter.

FROM THE WRITINGS

Obscure and wavering faith was represented by Peter walking upon the sea and beginning to sink, but being saved when the Lord took hold of him. "To walk" means in the Word to live. The sea that was moved by the wind signifies a tempestuous state. But with the state that is nearest to morning there comes tranquility of mind because the Lord is then present in the good of love. See *Apocalypse Explained* 514.21

It is first of all to be believed, that the Lord is the God of heaven and earth, and that He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, infinite, and one with the Father. It is necessary that these things should be known. But that faith does not save, until a person lives the life of faith, which is charity; for he then wills and does what he believes. See *Apocalypse Explained* 815.9

JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord has all power, and therefore He has Power over nature.
He is helping us when we are afraid, even though we may not know it.

Once again, today's story finds Jesus beside the Sea of Galilee with His disciples. He had been surrounded by a very large crowd of people who had come to Him for healing. In the evening the Lord performed a wonderful miracle of feeding the multitude of "five thousand men, besides women and children" with five loaves of bread and two fish. You may remember learning about this miracle at an earlier time.

After this miracle, the Lord told His disciples to go into the boat and cross the Sea of Galilee.

After the disciples had started the journey across the sea, the Lord went alone up a mountain near the shore to pray.

Read Matthew 14:22-23.

The disciples continued to cross the sea. When they were in the middle of the sea, it became very stormy with large waves and a "contrary" wind. This means that a wind was blowing strongly against them.

Listen as we read to learn the amazing thing the disciples saw as they were struggling to get to the opposite shore.

Read Matthew 14:24-27.





No one had ever seen anyone walking on water. It is not surprising that the disciples were troubled and afraid. They thought that the Lord was a "ghost" or spirit. The Lord, as our Heavenly Father, never wants any one to be afraid of Him. He immediately called out and told them who He was. "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Peter loved the Lord. He was eager to immediately be with Him.

Read Matthew 14:28-31.

By the Lord's strong power, He allowed Peter to walk on the water too! Peter only started to sink when He began to think about the wind and the waves. Peter stopped paying attention to the Lord. He stopped trusting in the Lord's mighty power and became afraid.

"He cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!'" The Lord immediately reached out and saved Peter from sinking down into the sea. The Lord reminded Peter that the problem was that he had too little faith.

When Peter and the Lord were in the boat, the Lord made the wind cease or stop blowing. The power of this miracle increased the faith of the disciples. They worshipped Him and called Him "the Son of God."

Read Matthew 14:32-36.

The Lord has told us about this miracle in His Word for a special reason. The Lord wants us to know that He always wants to help us, no matter how hard or dangerous things might seem. Sometimes we may not see right away how the Lord is helping. Sometimes the Lord's help can only be seen with the eyes of our spirit. Nevertheless, the Lord wants us to trust that He is always with us, helping in powerful ways, just as He helped Peter.

DISCUSSION

- The disciples loved the Lord. They willingly followed Him. They listened to Him teach about heaven and they saw Him do miracles of healing and raising the dead. Many of the Lord's miracles were done in front of people. Some of them were done just for the disciples. What three miracles did we read about today that the Lord did for the disciples alone? (*He walked on the water, His power allowed Peter to walk on the water and He calmed the stormy sea.*)

- Can you imagine how the disciples might have felt to see the Lord walking on the sea in the middle of a stormy night? Do you remember what Peter wanted to do when he realized that it was the Lord who was coming to them across the water? (*He wanted to go to the Lord on top of the water.*)
- Remember how the Lord told Peter to "Come." Peter trusted that he could walk on the water if the Lord said so. In fact, Peter did actually walk on the water too!
- What did Peter begin to think about after he started walking away from the safety of the boat? (*He began to worry about the wind. He became afraid.*) What happened then? (*He started to sink.*) The Lord immediately reached out to Peter when he called out to Him as he was sinking. Why was Peter sinking? (*He had lost his faith.*)
- The disciples worshipped Him after these miracles. Do you remember the special name they called Him? ("*The Son of God.*")
- What kind of power did the Lord show in today's story about the Lord walking on the sea, the Lord making Peter able to walk on the sea and calming the storm? (*Power over the world of nature.*)

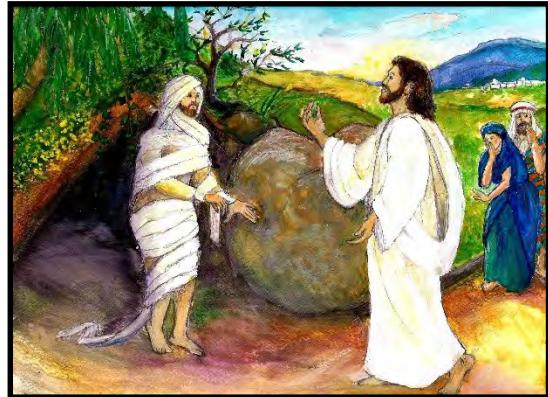
JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

John 11:25



When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

Song

- Walking on the Sea

Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-walking-on-the-sea/>

Projects

- Walking on Water Project
- Picture to color

Walking on Water Project

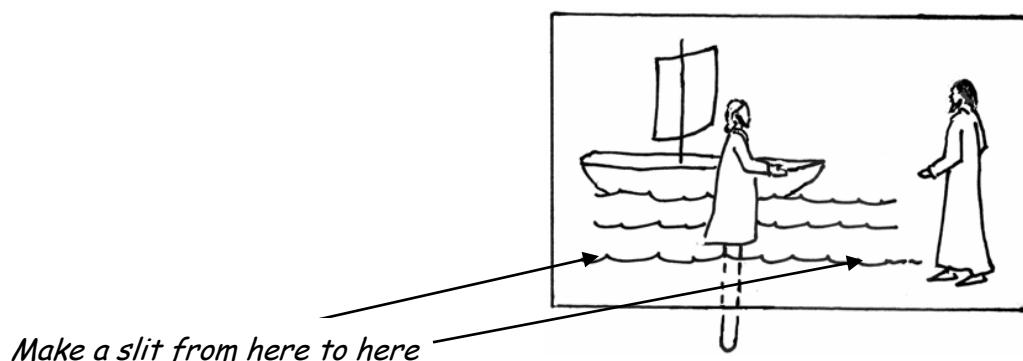
Create a moving picture showing Peter walking on water toward Jesus.

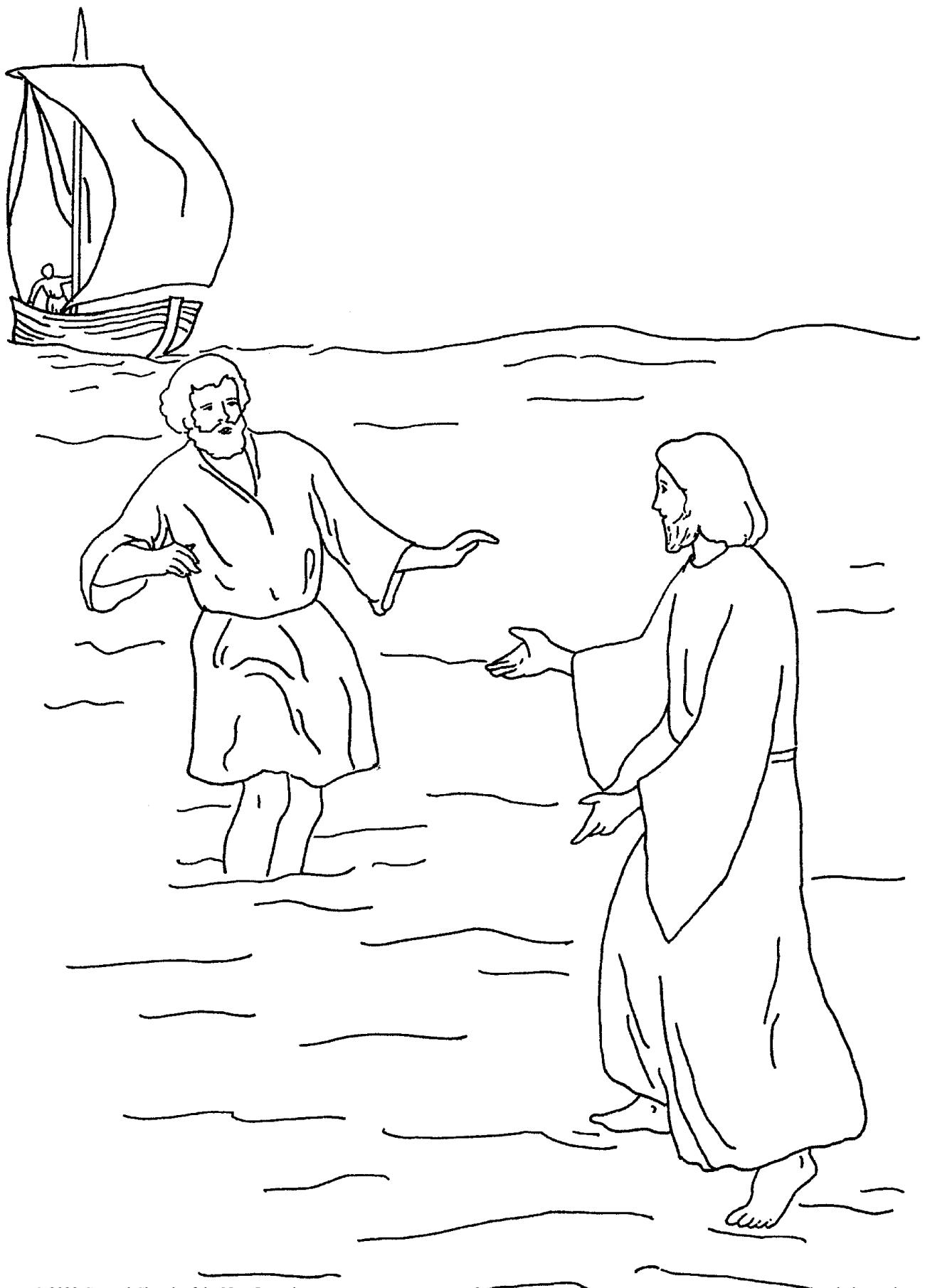
Supplies needed

- 2 pieces stiff white paper (for the background, and Peter figure)
- 1 piece stiff blue paper
- crayons, colored markers, colored pencils, or oil pastels
- craft (popsicle) stick
- glue or tape
- scissors

Directions

1. You will be making a picture of Peter walking on water to the Lord. Ask whether they want to picture the Lord and Peter reaching out to each other. Have the children hold one of their arms out in front of them as if they are Peter reaching out to the Lord.
2. Now draw a picture of the Lord on stiff white paper. Cut the picture out.
3. Draw a picture of Peter on stiff white paper. Glue or tape the Peter figure to a craft stick from behind.
4. Create a background picture by drawing the sea on stiff (blue) paper. *Optional:* Tear strips of blue stiff paper to create a rough wave-like edge and then glue the pieces to another piece of stiff paper. Make a horizontal slit in the water (as shown below). If you have chosen paper waves, glue the waves above and below the slit.
5. Glue Jesus to the background.
6. *Optional:* Add the boat with the other disciples watching the Lord and Peter on the water.
7. When finished, retell the story and show Peter moving out of the boat, walking on water, sinking, and then being lifted up by the Lord!





Recitation Award | Lessons 18, 19, 20

