

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 19
Jesus Walks on the Sea (Matthew 14:22-33)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord performed miracles for two reasons: to strengthen the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and for the sake of the Word.
- B. Each miracle is really a parable teaching us of some good work which the Lord can perform in our souls if we believe in Him and ask His help.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. Who can tell me what a miracle is? (A wonderful thing that the Lord does to teach us a spiritual lesson)
- 2. So far this year we've learned about six miracles that the Lord did while He was on earth. Can you remember what they were? (Turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana [Lesson #8], healing the leper and healing the centurion's paralyzed servant [Lesson #14], raising from death the son of the widow of Nain [Lesson #15], raising from death Jairus' daughter [Lesson #17], and feeding the five thousand [Lesson #18])
- 3. Today's lesson is about the Lord walking on the water to join His disciples who were in a boat in the middle of the sea.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Jesus and His disciples had finished feeding the five thousand people with how much food? (5 loaves and 2 fish) This is what happened next.
- 2. Read aloud Matthew 14:22-33.

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Jesus stayed behind while His disciples got into the boat to go to the other side of the sea. What did He do? (Sent the multitudes away) After He had sent the multitudes away, what did He do? Did He go to the disciples right away? (No; He went up on a mountain by Himself to pray.)
- 2. Was the weather good for sailing? (No, it was windy, and the waves were big.) Was it day or night when Jesus went to the disciples by walking on the sea? (Night - in the fourth watch of the night)
- 3. When the disciples saw Him coming, did they recognize Him?(No) What did they think He was? (A ghost)

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4. What did Jesus say to them? ("Be of good cheer! It is I, do not be afraid.") What did Peter say to the Lord? ("Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.")
5. Did Peter walk on the water? (Yes) What happened? (He became afraid because of the wind, and he began to sink.)
6. What did Peter say when he started to sink? ("Lord, save me!") What did Jesus do? (He stretched out His hand and caught him.)
7. What did Jesus say when He caught Peter? ("O you of little faith, why did you doubt?")
8. What surprising thing happened as soon as Jesus and Peter got into the boat? (The wind ceased [stopped blowing].)
9. What did the other disciples do when Jesus got into the boat? (They came and worshipped Him and said, "Truly You are the Son of God.")

D. Further Ideas

1. We've talked before about why Jesus could do miracles for certain people. He could help the ones who had faith in Him, that is, who believed that He had the power to help them.
2. Why do you think Peter started to sink while he was walking on the water toward the Lord? (When he saw how very windy it was and how big the waves were, he forgot to think about the Lord.)
3. When we are in the middle of a big problem, we feel stormy inside, and we don't remember that the Lord can help us. We can feel like Peter who didn't remember that the Lord had the power to help him walk on the water. But if we remind ourselves to ask the Lord for help, then He can and will help us, just like He helped Peter.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "See the Savior in the temple," HYMNAL #166 (about the Lord performing miracles).

B. Activities

1. Show children on a map where Lake Gennesaret is located. (The sea on which Jesus walked.)

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C. Project: JESUS AND PETER ON THE SEA

1. Materials Needed

- a. 9 X 12 black construction paper
- b. 9 X 3 strips of blue construction paper
- c. White drawing paper: 4" X 8" pieces and 4" X 6" pieces (or photocopy the attached line drawing of Peter and Jesus)
- d. Felt markers or oil pastels
- e. Glue
- f. Scissors
- g. Stapler

2. Before Class

- a. Turn the blue strips into stormy sea by cutting ripples along one of the 9" edges of each strip to make large waves.
- b. Staple the blue strips to the bottom of the 9 X 12 black paper. Staple at the sides only so Peter will be able to slip down between the water and the background page.
- c. Cut white drawing paper into strips (4" X 8" and 4" X 6"), or photocopy the line drawing.

3. In Class

- a. Have children draw a full-length picture of Jesus on the 4" X 8" white paper and a picture of Peter from mid-thigh or waist up on the 4" X 6" piece. Color before cutting out the two figures. (Or color the two figures on the line drawing and cut them out.)
- b. Glue the Lord onto the background with His feet on the water. (Show children that His feet do not need to rest on the tips of the waves in order to look as though He is on the water; His feet may even be near the bottom of the blue strip to get the proper effect.)
- c. Attach a paper "handle" to Peter's back. Position Peter against the background page and cut a vertical slit (about 1 1/2" long) in the background through which Peter's handle can be inserted. Children can make Peter sink down into the water by maneuvering him from behind. He should slip down between the blue water strip and the black background.

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IV. Teaching Aids

A. Illustrations of Jesus walking on the sea and helping Peter.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

A. THE SOWER, Vol. IV, Matthew 14:22-36.