

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 and it will rock 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 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. A storm came and they became very afraid, but they learned that **We need to completely trust in Jesus.**

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we will be looking at the time when Jesus walked on the water. This is kind of a famous story. A lot of people have heard of it. There are a lot of things that we can learn from this story in the gospels. The main thing that we are going to learn today is 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 had been fed. The last few days had been full of miracles and ministry for the disciples. And this day was 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 were also pretty excited about what Jesus was doing and they were ready to do the same thing (John 6:14, 15). Jesus would then be king and they would be His leaders. This idea probably sounded pretty good to them. But instead, Jesus told them to get into the boat and go to the other side of the sea to a place called Bethsaida.

Why didn't Jesus let the disciples hang around a little while? They could chit chat with the crowd, shake a few hands, and have fun for a while longer. He didn't, because He knew what the temptation would be to stay on the seashore with the crowd and the celebration. 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 and it is an awesome party, you just don't want it to end. But if it was on a school night you also know that you have school the next day. There will be work that will need to be done. 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 wasn't His time to be king. His kingdom was to be established with His death on the cross. He was to suffer, not to 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's 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 adulation of man. Man is not supposed to receive it. He doesn't 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).

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 led them to a storm. The first time He was with them, this time they were without Him.

It is important for us to know that although it seems like we are alone sometimes, Jesus is 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. Don't force any children to share who aren't 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. You can model prayer for your class so they can see that you are simply talking to God. 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. When the Bible says "the fourth watch of the night," what does that 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. Finally 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 of our own strength, He comes in miraculously, 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 if all of a sudden you looked out into the night and saw someone walking across the water. What would you do?

You would probably do what they did and panic. They thought they were seeing a ghost. Probably all kinds of things 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 to not be afraid. He said to them, "Be of good cheer!" They heard Jesus' voice and they recognized it was Him on the water. Do you know Jesus' voice? Do you know when God speaks to you? 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. His voice is mainly heard 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 are in 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 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. They had forgotten the miracles Jesus had done and they were sad. Has Jesus done a miracle for you? Don't forget what He has done.

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

But then 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 began to think about the waves and the wind, 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. We need to keep our eyes on Him in addition to trusting in the Lord at all times. We can't look at the problems or the scary things around us. We will only get scared and begin to sink. But when we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can do amazing things in the midst of scary storms. Isn't it wonderful to know that even when we get ourselves into 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. Don't 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 for you and talk about how that was a milestone of God's faithfulness in your life. Share how it impacted your relationship with the Lord.

Have some of your class volunteer to share some things He's 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.