

# Jesus Walks on Water and Calms the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25; Matthew  
14:22-33; Mark 6:45-57; John 6:15-21





After Jesus had fed all of those people, he knew it was time to go. He turned to the disciples, “Go ahead of me in the boat, and I will dismiss the crowds. I need some time to pray.”

The disciples got into their boat and started to travel across the lake. The crowds slowly left, and Jesus was left alone.

He walked further up the mountain they had been sitting on, and took some time to pray.

He prayed for several hours by himself, talking to God about what had been going on, what was going to happen, and his worries for the future.

When night fell he got up and headed to the lake.



As Jesus looked over the water searching for the boat, he saw it far off in the distance across the lake. It was bobbing on the waves being buffeted by the wind.

Jesus set out walking to the disciples and moved quickly across the water.

Eventually the disciples looked up from their work sailing the boat and saw him.

“Did you see that?” they cried out. “It’s a ghost. A ghost has come to kill us! We’re going to die.”



Raising his voice, Jesus called out to them, “Do not be afraid. It is I.”

Peter peered through the rushing waves and shouted back, “Lord, if it is you, tell me to walk out over the water, and I will come to you.”

Slowly Peter stepped over the sides of the boat, and cautiously put his foot down on the water. He looked up in surprise at Jesus as his foot connected with a solid surface.

Grinning Peter started to walk toward Jesus.





But then he looked away from Jesus and looked at the waves and noticed the wind whipping around him. His heart started to race, and he started to doubt.

The water that seemed solid before turned back to liquid and Peter began to sink. “Lord save me,” he cried out.

Jesus stepped forward and reached down pulling Peter up. “Peter, why did you doubt? I am right here.”

Jesus helped Peter up into the boat and everyone was amazed at what they’d seen



Another time; as Jesus was teaching one day, he stepped into a boat to have more room to teach, and when he was done ordered the disciples to set forth across the lake.

The boat slowly moved out over the water, and because it had been a long day of ministering to people Jesus lay down in the boat fell asleep.



While he slept, a great storm rose up over the lake. The winds roared and the sails creaked with the sudden gusts.

The disciples frantically worked to lower the sails and tie everything down. They kept glancing up at the sky as great cracks of lightning burst over their heads.

“We’re going to drown,” Peter cried out, “The water is starting to come over the sides. If we see one more wave like this, we’ll capsize.”

As the disciples worked frantically to secure the boat; Jesus slept on; seemingly unaware of the great danger surrounding them.



The disciples fear grew more and more as the water rose higher and higher around their ankles. Peter splashed through it, and grabbed a bucket, tossing it to Judas.

“Start bailing. We need to get the water out,” Peter instructed. Judas started to pour water over the sides as fast as he could, but still the water came in faster.

“We’re going to die,” John said. “Wake the Master, he’ll be able to save us.”

James reached over and shook Jesus awake, “Master, we’re going to die if you don’t save us!”





Jesus sat up and looked around him, “Why are you afraid?” The disciples looked at him agog, the wind whistled around them and the storm continued to beat down.

“Peace, be still,” Jesus said quietly. Immediately the winds died down, and the storm was gone.

The disciples all looked at one another in astonishment, “Who is this?” they asked. “He can command the storms to go away, and they listen.”

# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. What did Jesus do when He was alone? When do you take time to pray?
2. What did Peter do when he saw Jesus?
3. Why were the disciples afraid of the storm? Have you ever been frightened by a storm? What did you do?
4. How did Jesus solve the problem?

## Middle Kids

1. Read Matthew 14:22-23. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be alone? What is the best time for you to be alone and pray?
2. What was Peter's response to seeing Jesus? Read Matthew 14:28. What happened when he started walking on the water? Read Matthew 14:30. Who had greater faith, Peter, or the rest of the disciples still in the boat.
3. Read Mark 4:37-38. What was Jesus doing while the storm raged? Why do you think Jesus had no fear?
4. Read Mark 4:39. What does Jesus have power over? Can He change the weather?

## Older Guys

1. Read Matthew 14:22-23. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be alone? Read Matthew 14:10-12 to remember what had been happening.
2. Read Matthew 14:25-26. What is the disciples response to seeing Jesus? When you see something that frightens you, how do you respond? Do you respond in fear or in faith?
3. Read Matthew 14:28-31. What was the difference between when Peter was walking on the water and when he wasn't? What happens to you when you take your eyes off of Jesus?
4. Reread the passage Matthew 14:22-33. What did the other disciples do? Who showed the greatest faith in this story?

## Activities

1. Mix equal parts of corn starch and water. This is a non-Newtonian liquid. When the water mixes with the liquid it imitates properties of a liquid and a solid. I sometimes wonder if Jesus manipulated the water to feel like that.

2. Fill a bottle with water, baby oil, and glitter. Shake it up really hard and then say “Peace, be still,” and stop shaking it. Watch as the water settles.



## Online

1. Jesus walks on water activities-

<http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/2014/08/jesus-walks-on-water.html>

2. Jesus walks on water craft-

<http://craftingthewordofgod.com/2014/01/07/jesus-walks-on-water/>

3. Jesus calms the storm craft-

<http://craftingthewordofgod.com/2013/10/29/jesus-calms-the-storm/>

4. Jesus calms the storm bathtub toy-

<http://bibleclasscreations.blogspot.com/2012/06/jesus-calms-storm-bathtub-toy.html>