



Jesus: Walking on the Water

These are basic Bible studies intended to help our teachers personally grasp the “big picture” of our VBS theme. Feel free to use anything here in connecting with your students.

Key text: Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus had just fed more than 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish (Matt 14:13-21). Immediately after that miracle, he told his disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee while he spent some time praying.

When it had gotten dark, the disciples had rowed three or four miles, but the sea was becoming very rough and the wind was blowing very hard (John 6:18-19). In the middle of the night (sometime between 3:00 and 6:00 AM according to Matthew 14:25), Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him, they were terrified and said, “It is a ghost!” But it wasn’t a ghost. It was Jesus, and he said to them, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (14:26-27).

When Peter heard this, he cried out, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Peter knew *he* couldn’t walk on water, but if he was really seeing Jesus, he believed that Jesus could do anything. Remember, he had just seen Jesus feed thousands of people. When Jesus told Peter to get out of the boat and come towards him, Peter did and started walking on the water!

But when [Peter] saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” (14:30-33)

Who is Jesus? Lots of people asked that question and came up with all sorts of answers. A teacher. An imposter. A prophet. The next king of Israel. But on this night, the disciples knew that Jesus deserved to be worshiped as the Son of God.

The “trust and obey” connection:

- Jesus prayed. Prayer was important to him, and he wants us to be people of prayer too.
- Peter had great faith to get out of the boat and only began to sink when he took his eyes off of Jesus and started looking at the wind. There are going to be times when life is scary, but the best thing we can do is always focus on Jesus and follow him closely.
- Jesus is the Son of God and we should worship him for the rest of our lives.

Christ 5

At Sea of Galilee

To Nazareth

Chorazin

Capernaum

Tabgha

Plain of Gennesaret

Chinnereth

Magdala

Arbela

Horns of Hattin

Bethsaida

Gergesa

Hippos

Aphkek



Golan

Sea of Galilee
(Lake Gennesaret)
(Sea of Tiberias)

- 1 Jesus calms the sea - Mk. 4:35-41
- 2 Demon cast into 2,000 pigs - Mk. 5:1-20
- 3 Jairus' daughter healed - Mk. 5:35-43
- 4 Rejected in Nazareth - Mk. 6:1-6
- 5 3rd PASSOVER - Jerusalem 29 A.D. - Jn. 6:4
- 6 Return if he attended the Passover
- 7 5,000 fed by sea shore - Mk. 6:35-44
- 8 Walks on the water - Mk. 6:47-52
- 9 Miracles: Plain of Gennesaret - Mk 6:53-56

To and from Jerusalem



Scale of Miles

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