

# Peter's dramatic lesson



### Bible verses:

Matthew 14:22-34

Jesus walks on water



### Aim:

To see how Peter reacted to Jesus' supernatural power



### Today's fruit:

Peace



In today's session we witness Jesus' supernatural water walking, and watch as Peter tries to step out in faith.

As the disciples travelled across Lake Galilee in the early hours of the morning, waves crashed against their fishing boat. In the middle of the storm they saw what they thought was a ghost – but it was Jesus. We'll also discover that Jesus wants to bring peace to the storms of our lives, just as he did for the disciples.

Peter demonstrates how we can lose sight of Jesus and easily look to the wind and waves instead. However, Jesus only wants to bring peace to Peter.

## Each child will need:

- A4 white card, blue paper (ideally in different shades), brown card (or white card coloured-in), scissors, glue, pencils, pens and a paper straw
- *Explore It ideas* handout

## You will need:

- To watch *Online children's space: Jesus walks on water* 3D picture from Bradford Cathedral (5:44)
- To decide if you wish to change the craft activity to a group activity, you may want to increase the size of the paper/card to make a larger model
- Today's fruit sign: *Peace*



## Start it

### **Say:**

Watch this clip from the London Olympics 2012. Look closely at the audience to see what they are doing together.

### **Video**

*Massive Mexican wave! London 2012 Olympic Stadium* by Andy Webb (0:27)

### **Ask:**

- Have you ever been part of a crowd where a wave started and then followed around the whole group? Maybe it was at a football game or a concert.
- What does it feel like?

### **Say:**

We may not have quite as many people here as there were in the Olympic Stadium, but let's have a go at our own wave.

Spread the children around the room and let them have a go at a wave. Change the direction to keep them on their toes.

### **Ask:**

This kind of wave is fun to be a part of, but how would you feel about being in the middle of these waves?

### **Say:**

As you watch the clip, imagine that you are on a little fishing boat in the middle of the water.

### **Video**

*Windstorm on the Sea of Galilee* by LutheranHusker(1:08)

Discuss with the children what it would feel like to be on a little fishing boat in the middle of waters like those in the clip.

### **Say:**

The video clip showed the water of the Sea of Galilee, and that's the exact place that we find Jesus and the disciples in our story today – though then it was dark and the waves were even rougher.

## Sing it

### **Say:**

In the middle of the stormy waters of Lake Galilee Jesus walked on water and invited Peter to

join him. Our song for today reminds us to step out in faith as Jesus will never let us go under.

## Song

'Walk on water' (official lyric video) by Elevation Rhythm (4:37)

## Tell it

### Say:

Our story for today is found in Matthew 14:22-34. Let's watch the clip to find out what happened.

## Video

*Jesus walks on water Stories of the Bible* by Saddleback Kids (2:30)

### Ask:

How easy/difficult do you find it to imagine Jesus performing miraculous acts like walking on water?

### Say:

It can be difficult to imagine Jesus performing supernatural acts like walking on the water, but it really happened. After a long day teaching the people, Jesus instructed his disciples to cross Lake Galilee on a boat. Jesus stayed behind.

### Read:

**'After he said good-bye to them, he went alone up into the hills to pray. It was late, and Jesus was there alone. By this time, the boat was already far away on the lake. The boat was having trouble because of the waves, and the wind was blowing against it.'**

(Matthew 14:23-24 ICB)

### Ask:

Imagine yourself on the boat with the disciples. What do you think it feels like to be in the middle of a storm?

### Read:

**'Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus' followers were still in the boat. Jesus came to them. He was walking on the water. When the followers saw him walking on the water, they were afraid. They said, "It's a ghost!" and cried out in fear.'**

(Matthew 14:25-26 ICB)

### Say:

The disciples were tired as they were still awake in the early hours of the morning after a hectic day.

**Ask:**

- Why do you think the disciples thought Jesus was a ghost?
- Do you think seeing a 'ghost' in the middle of a storm made them feel more or less afraid? Explain why.

**Read:**

**'But Jesus quickly spoke to them. He said, "Have courage! It is I! Don't be afraid."**

**'Peter said, "Lord, if that is really you, then tell me to come to you on the water."**

**'Jesus said, "Come."**

**'And Peter left the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind and the waves, he became afraid and began to sink. He shouted, "Lord, save me!"'**

(Matthew 14:28-30 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

How many disciples volunteered to walk on the water toward Jesus?

**Say:**

When we hear this story, it is easy to focus on the part where Peter lost faith and started to sink. We should remember that Peter was the only one with enough faith to step out of the boat in the first place.

**Ask:**

What did Peter say as soon as he started to sink?

**Say:**

Peter cried, 'Lord, save me!' Although he doubted, he immediately called out to Jesus when he started to sink.

**Read:**

**'Then Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. Jesus said, "Your faith is small. Why did you doubt?"'**

**'After Peter and Jesus were in the boat, the wind became calm. Then those who were in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "Truly you are the Son of God!"'**

**'After they crossed the lake, they came to the shore at Gennesaret.'**

(Matthew 14:31-34 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

Do you think Jesus was cross with Peter? Explain your answer.

**Say:**

As humans we often get angry with others when they don't react in the way we expect, but

that's not how Jesus reacts to us. Jesus wanted to reassure Peter that he was there with him in the storm. He caught Peter's hand and saved him because he loved him very much. Jesus brought peace to the disciples' stormy situation, and he can do the same for us.

## Action it

Show the children how to make a 3D model based on our Bible story. A clip is provided for the leader's use. Depending on the ability of your group and the time available, you may like to create one large 3D picture together.

## Video

**Online children's space: Jesus walks on water 3D picture** by Bradford Cathedral (5:44)

Instead of the suggestion from the clip, write the memory verse for this month on the sail. Share it with the children.

## Memory verse

**'Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for human beings, but not for God; everything is possible for God."**

(Mark 10:27 *GNB*)



## Pray it

Display the *Peace* sign.

### Ask:

The disciples were caught up in a real storm throwing their boat around in the crashing waves, but what kind of storms do we face in life?

### Say:

In the middle of the storm Jesus encouraged his disciples to step out in faith and not be afraid. He brought peace to a stormy situation. Jesus wants to do the same for us.

### Say:

In John 14:27 we read these words of Jesus:

**'I leave you peace. My peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don't let your hearts be troubled. Don't be afraid.'**

(John 14:27 *ICB*)

Use the following clip to reflect on the idea of remaining peaceful during the storm. This activity will be very much led by the children and their response to the clip. Watch the clip together and discuss how the main character demonstrates peace. After your discussions, pray with the group, claiming God's peace for each one of them.

## Video

**'Peace like a river' (music video)** by Page CXVI (4:15)

If appropriate for your group, then discuss with them that Sunday 12 May is Candidates Sunday, a Salvation Army event which encourages people to focus on what God's calling is on their lives. For some, they will answer God's call to go on the journey of becoming Salvation Army officers, choosing to become leaders of churches, and they will spend their lives bringing peace to others experiencing storms.

## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



## Peter's dramatic lesson

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



### Bible verses:

Matthew 14:22-34  
Jesus walks on water



### Aim:

To see how Peter reacted to Jesus' supernatural power



### Today's fruit:

Peace



### Create

What do you imagine when you think of God's peace?

Create a piece of artwork that sums up your idea of peace.



### Watch

In today's *Explore It* session we watched an interesting animation that represented God's peace in our lives. Watch it with the people at home and discuss what they learned about peace from the clip.

**'Peace like a river'** (music video) by Page CXVI



### Song for the week

**'Walk on water'** (official lyric video) by Elevation Rhythm



### Memory verse

**'Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for human beings, but not for God; everything is possible for God."'**

(Mark 10:27 GNB)

**LIVING  
OUT FAITH**

# Peter's dramatic lesson



**Bible verses:**  
Matthew 14:22-34



**Aim:**  
To learn about Peter when  
he saw Jesus' power



**Today's fruit:**  
Peace



## Memory verse

**'Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for human beings, but not for God; everything is possible for God."'**

(Mark 10:27 *GNB*)



## Sing It

**'The wise man built his house upon the rock'** by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

**'All through history'** Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



## Start it

Peter was a follower of Jesus; he believed in Jesus and in the amazing things Jesus could do. Do you recall any of the amazing things Jesus could do?

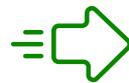


## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Matthew 14:22-34.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Have you ever been in a boat, and how did it feel?
- What makes a sea stormy?
- How would Peter feel when he was sinking?
- What type of moments make you afraid?
- Do you know anybody who is brave like Peter?



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Make a group wave together
- Pretend you are in a boat on a stormy sea
- Make sea noises
- Act out the stormy water using long blue cloths, allowing the children to move in between
- Move as if waking and sleeping to contrast moving with being peaceful