

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Matthew

LESSON 26

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Life of Christ

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22-33

Younger Verse

God is our place of safety.

Psalm 46:1

Older Verse

God is our place of safety. . . He is always there to help us in times of trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Lesson Goals

Learn that Peter walked on water with Jesus

Understand that we need to keep our eyes on Jesus, not our problems

Recognize that we can call out to Jesus to save us

Welcome Time

Imagine yourself in a small boat. The wind begins to blow hard, and the waves come up and splash the boat. The boat rocks back and forth, and you get wet! (Spray water into the air if desired.) This is the scene for today's lesson.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we learned that Jesus fed over 5,000 people with just a little food. **Do you remember how much fish and bread Jesus had?** (5 loaves, 2 fish)

Remember that on the same day, Jesus had learned that His friend, John the Baptist, had been killed. He had gone across the lake to be alone and pray. But when He got there, the crowds followed Him. So He helped them and then fed them!

After the miraculous feeding, Jesus sent His disciples back across the lake. Then He sent all the people home. But He stayed behind to pray—what He had been wanting to do all day!

The disciples were experiencing some high wind, and their little boat was being hit with big waves.

In the middle of the night (the Bible says between 3 and 6 a.m.), Jesus walked across the lake to the disciples' boat! Have you ever seen anyone walk across a lake or swimming pool? Of course not! Only Jesus could do that.

When the disciples saw Jesus on the water, they didn't realize it was Him at first. They began shouting out that there was a ghost! But Jesus told them not to be afraid, that it was Him. Then Peter spoke up, "Jesus, if it's really you, tell me to come to you on the water." And Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water with Jesus!

But then Peter saw the huge waves crashing against the boat. He took his eyes off Jesus, and he began to sink in the water. He cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus reached out His hand and helped Peter into the boat.

Immediately, when Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind became calm. Jesus showed His power over nature once again, just as He had when He calmed the storm.

When the disciples saw all that had happened, they worshipped Jesus and said, "You really are the Son of God!"

Sometimes in our lives we feel like problems are crashing in on us like waves. We may feel like giving up. But then Jesus comes to us and reminds us that He has power over everything, including our problems. We need to trust Him and know that He is ALWAYS with us!

Jesus showed us how much He loves us when He died on the cross for us. He didn't have to come to earth at all, but He did it for us. He loves us and wants us to be with Him forever. **Have you invited Jesus to be part of your life?**

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus do after He sent the disciples away in the boat? (prayed)
2. Did the disciples recognize Jesus when they saw Him on the water? (No; they thought He was a ghost)
3. What did Peter say to Jesus? (“Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water.”)
4. What did the disciples do when Jesus got into the boat with them? (worshipped Him)

Prayer Time

Thank God that we can trust Him to always be with us. Ask God to give us more faith.

Life Application

The disciples had been with Jesus for quite a while. They had seen Him do amazing things. And now, Jesus was walking on the water to them! Peter had faith in Jesus' power, and so he climbed out of the boat and walked on the water with Jesus. But then Peter took his eyes off of Jesus. He looked at the big waves splashing around him. In that moment, Peter forgot that Jesus is bigger than anything—even the wind and the waves.

We may shake our heads and think Peter was foolish for sinking in the water. But we do the same thing in our lives. We worship Jesus and try to follow Him. But then problems come—and they seem so big! We take our eyes off Jesus and the problems grow bigger and bigger. We begin to sink down into the stormy waters of our troubles.

But Peter called out to Jesus, saying, “Lord, save me!” And Jesus reached out and pulled Peter out of the raging waters. He will do the same for us. We can call out to Jesus anytime, anywhere, about anything. And He is there. He wants to be with us and help us through the storms of life.

Planning for Next Lesson
Clean Verses Unclean
Matthew 15:1-18

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Walks on Water

Peter was one of Jesus' best friends. He traveled with Jesus and saw Him do many amazing things. Last week we learned how Jesus fed many, many people with one little boy's lunch. Peter was there when Jesus did this great miracle.

We are going to tell today's story from Peter's point of view.

After Jesus fed all the people, He asked the disciples (I'm one of those) to go ahead to the other side of the lake. So we began rowing the boat across the lake. Jesus told us that He would catch up with us later. He wanted to pray to God.

Suddenly, stormy winds began to blow our boat. Dark clouds began to roll in, and the waves began to grow. It was really hard to row the boat.

Then, all of a sudden, we saw something walking towards us. We were so scared! It looked like a ghost! We were afraid and not sure what to do.

Immediately, Jesus said, "Have courage, It's Me. Don't be afraid."

I couldn't believe my eyes. Jesus was walking on top of the water like it was land. Before I could think, I asked Jesus if I could walk out to Him on the water.

Jesus told me to come to Him, so I began walking on the water. I couldn't believe how the water was holding me up!

Then, I took my eyes off Jesus. I started looking around at the waves and felt the wind rush by. I got scared and I started to sink into the water. I knew that I would drown if Jesus didn't help me. I cried out to Jesus for help, and He reached out His hand and saved me.

Quickly we climbed into the boat. When we did, the stormy winds stopped. We were amazed at how the storm was immediately gone! We knew again that Jesus was God's Son. Only He could make the weather change and walk on water!

Then we all worshipped Jesus by telling Him how wonderful He was and how much we loved Him. We bowed down to Him and honored Him.

Just like Peter and the disciples, we can trust Jesus and worship Him.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus Walks on Water

The disciples worshipped Jesus after He rescued them from the stormy waters. **Think of ways that we can worship God.** Singing is one way. Obeying God, serving Him and others, and having a loving attitude are others ways of praising God. Worshipping God begins in our heart when we put God first. Make a list for the class of how God has helped them. Then sing “*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*” in praise to God.

Sing, “*With Jesus in Your Boat, You Can Smile Through the Storm.*”

Bring a blue tarp and take turns having the kids “walk on the water.” You could also have students sit on the tarp and pretend they are in the boat with Jesus. Spray water, if desired.

Make a “Storm in a Bottle.” Pour water 2/3 of the way full into the bottle. Now add baby oil or mineral oil into the bottle to fill it up. Add 1 drop of blue food coloring. Screw on the bottle cap and secure with duct tape (so that it will not unscrew). Shake up the bottle and watch a storm appear!

Play fun water games by soaking a sponge in water, using water balloons, water squirters, etc. Be prepared to get wet and have fun!!


Color a piece of paper to resemble water. Cut it to fit into a zipper sandwich bag. Glue a small picture of Jesus onto a craft stick. Make a small hole on the side of the bag and insert the stick. Now let the kids simulate Jesus walking on the water while moving the stick.

Fill little cups with blue jell-o. Add fish shapes, if available. Talk about the story and have fun eating the snack.



GOD IS
OUR PLACE
OF SAFETY.

PSALM 46:1



**God is our place
of safety. . . He is
always there to
help us in times
of trouble.**

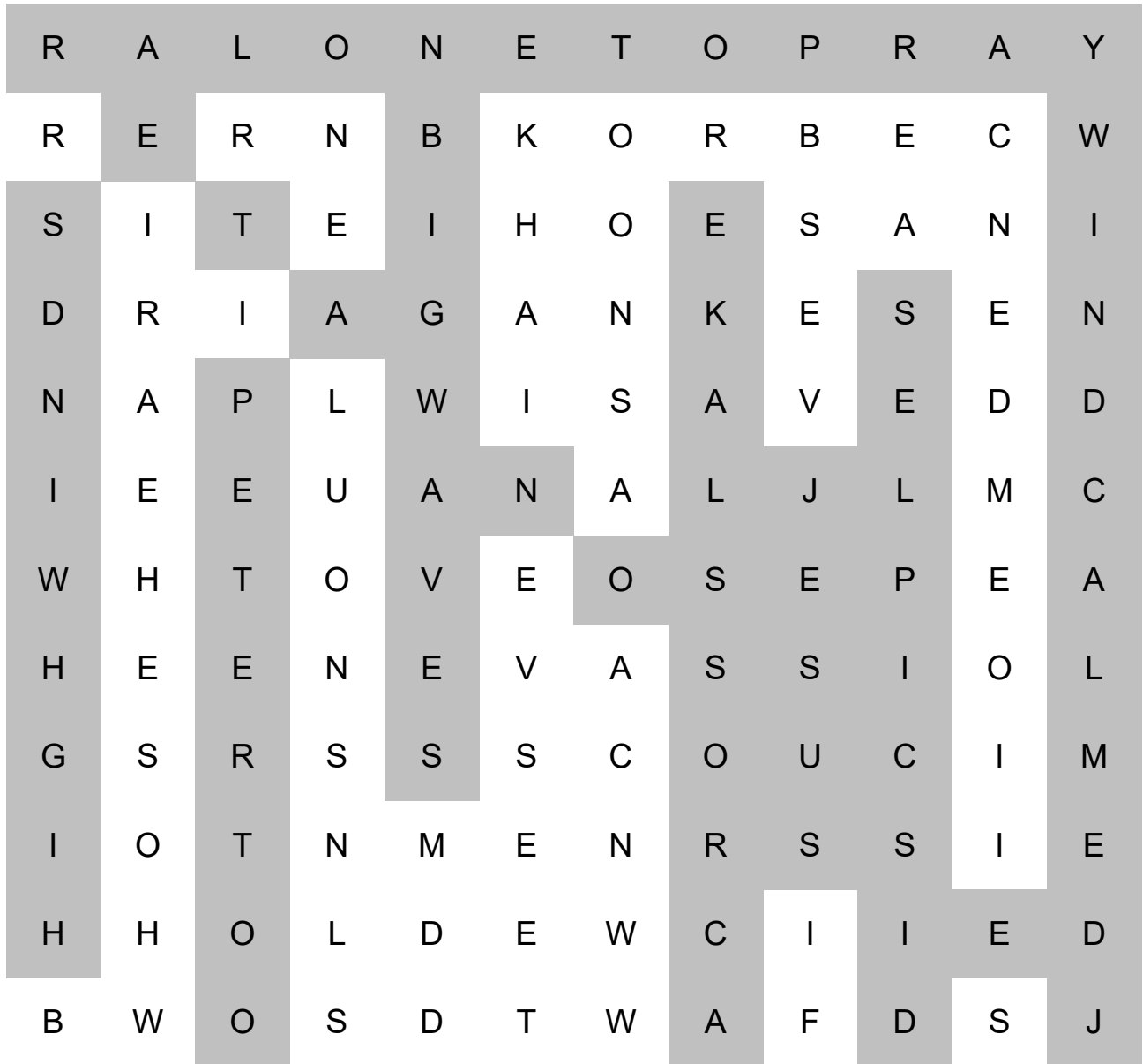
Psalm 46:1

R A L O N E T O P R A Y
 R E R N B K O R B E C W
 S I T E I H O E S A N I
 D R I A G A N K E S E N
 N A P L W I S A V E D D
 I E E U A N A L J L M C
 W H T O V E O S E P E A
 H E E N E V A S S I O L
 G S R S S S C O U C I M
 I O T N M E N R S S I E
 H H O L D E W C I I E D
 B W O S D T W A F D S J

disciples
 alone to pray
 Jesus on water

across lake
 high winds
 Peter too

Jesus
 big waves
 wind calmed



disciples
 alone to pray
 Jesus on water

across lake
 high winds
 Peter too

Jesus
 big waves
 wind calmed