

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 23

**JESUS WALKS ON
WATER**

MARK 6:45-56

Life of Christ

Jesus Walks on Water

Mark 6:45-56

Younger Verse

"It is I! Do not be afraid."

Mark 6:50

Older Verse

"Have courage! It is I! Do not be afraid."

Mark 6:50

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus knew the importance of prayer
Recognize that Jesus had power to walk on water
Understand that we should not fear because God is with us

Opener

Have you ever been afraid of something at first, but then you found out it was something not scary at all? This happened to Jesus' disciples, too!

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. 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 5,000 people with two fish and five loaves of bread. That was an amazing miracle that Jesus did because He wanted to take care of all those people. Jesus was also teaching His disciples the importance of helping others.

Once they had finished putting all the leftovers in the baskets, Jesus had His disciples get into a boat immediately. He wanted them to get a head start going to the next place. Jesus sent all the people back home.

After they left, Jesus had something very important to do. What do you think it was? He wanted to pray. He wanted to talk with God, so He went up the side of a mountain to be alone. What do you think He prayed about? (Encourage them to guess what He may have prayed about, i.e. the 5,000 people, His cousin John's death, His disciples, etc.) Well, the Bible does not specifically say what He prayed about, but no matter what it was, Jesus knew that He needed some time alone with God.

Who remembers where the disciples were? Yes, in a boat. It soon became dark outside as they were going along in the boat. They got the boat out to the middle of the lake. Even though it was dark, Jesus saw that they were having a hard time rowing because the wind was very strong.

Later in the evening, Jesus knew the disciples needed Him. But how did He get to them? They had already left with the boat! But Jesus didn't need a boat. He walked on the water to go and meet them! He was about to walk past the disciples, when finally one of them noticed Him. They thought they were seeing a ghost and screamed because they were afraid. Quickly, Jesus spoke to them: "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." Then he

climbed into the boat with them, and instantly, the wind became very calm. Does this sound familiar? We learned a while back that Jesus calmed a storm. Once again, the disciples were completely amazed! He had walked on the water and made the wind calm down. At this time, the disciples still struggled to understand what Jesus was showing and teaching them. They still had a lot to see and learn about God before they would know what Jesus was teaching.

Once Jesus and the disciples reached the new place, they set their boat there. People heard that Jesus was there, and many of the sick people came to be healed by Jesus.

Jesus did a miracle when He walked on water. Jesus did many amazing things. The most amazing thing that Jesus did was come back to life after He died on the cross. He died so that you and I could live with Him in Heaven. He took the punishment for all the bad things we have ever done. If we ask Him to forgive us of all those bad things, then He comes and lives in our heart. If you believe you are ready to ask Jesus into your heart, please talk with me before you leave.

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do after the meal? (Get in the boat and go across the lake.)
2. What did Jesus do? (Stayed behind and spent time with God)
3. How did Jesus get to the disciples in the middle of the lake? (He walked on the water.)

Prayer Time

Thank God that He is always with us. Pray that we will not be afraid because we know God will take care of us.

Life Application

Jesus knew the value of spending time alone with God. It is important for us to do that, too. Every day we should take some time to talk with God. It does not matter where you are because God will hear you.

The disciples were afraid when they saw Jesus walking on the water. This may seem strange. After all, they had seen Him calm a storm and do many other amazing things. But fear had overtaken them while Jesus was away. So when Jesus came out to them, they didn't recognize Him at first!

Sometimes we get scared. We forget that God is with us. We need to know that He is saying, "Do not be afraid! I am with you."

Planning for Lesson 24
A Woman's Faith
Mark 7:24-30

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Walks on Water

Hello! We have another exciting story today! Last week, we learned how Jesus fed 5,000 people with only two fish and five loaves of bread. (Rub your stomachs.) Once everyone had finished eating, Jesus asked His disciples to get into a boat to start heading to the next place. Let's help them start to row the boat. (Row the boat with the children.)

While they went on ahead, Jesus sent all those people back to their homes (Wave good bye to the people.) Jesus realized that He needed to have some time alone with His Father, God, so He found a quiet place up on a mountain. What do you think He did? Yes, He prayed.

The disciples had gotten the boat out to the middle of the lake and it was getting dark. Jesus looked down at them from the mountain. (Put your hand above your eyes to look down.) He saw that they were having a hard time. The wind was blowing against them and they were having difficulty rowing the boat forward. (Make some wind noise.)

Jesus wanted to go and be with them. When He had finished praying He went down to see them. But they were in the middle of the lake. So how did Jesus get out to them? (Wait for responses.) Jesus walked on the water! Wow, no one had ever seen or heard of anyone doing that! Jesus walked on it like it was a street.

He was about to pass right by them when they finally noticed Him. Since they had never seen a person walking on water, they thought He was a ghost. They screamed and cried out in fear! (Make a face like you've seen a ghost.)

Immediately, Jesus spoke to them. He said, "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." Then He got into the boat with them. All of a sudden, the wind died down and it was no longer hard to row the boat. They were amazed! Jesus did two miracles. He walked on water and He made the wind stop blowing.

The disciples had a hard time believing that Jesus could do those amazing things. They never really understood who Jesus was until after He died on the cross and came back to life. Jesus is God's Son and that is why He is powerful and wonderful. He did everything so that we would know that He is from God. We can believe in Jesus in our own hearts and let Him do amazing things all around us. If we believe that He loves us and wants to be our best friend, then we become just like one of the disciples in the boat.

If you believe you are ready to let Jesus into your heart, please talk with me before you leave.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus Walks on Water

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.

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

Make an ocean in a bottle. Pour water $\frac{2}{3}$ 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 duck tape (so that it will not unscrew). Shake up the bottle and watch a storm appear!

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 by moving the stick.

Talk about what it means to worship God. Let the kids give examples of how we can worship God. Help the kids see how important it is to worship God and honor Him.

**“It is I! Do
not be
afraid.”**

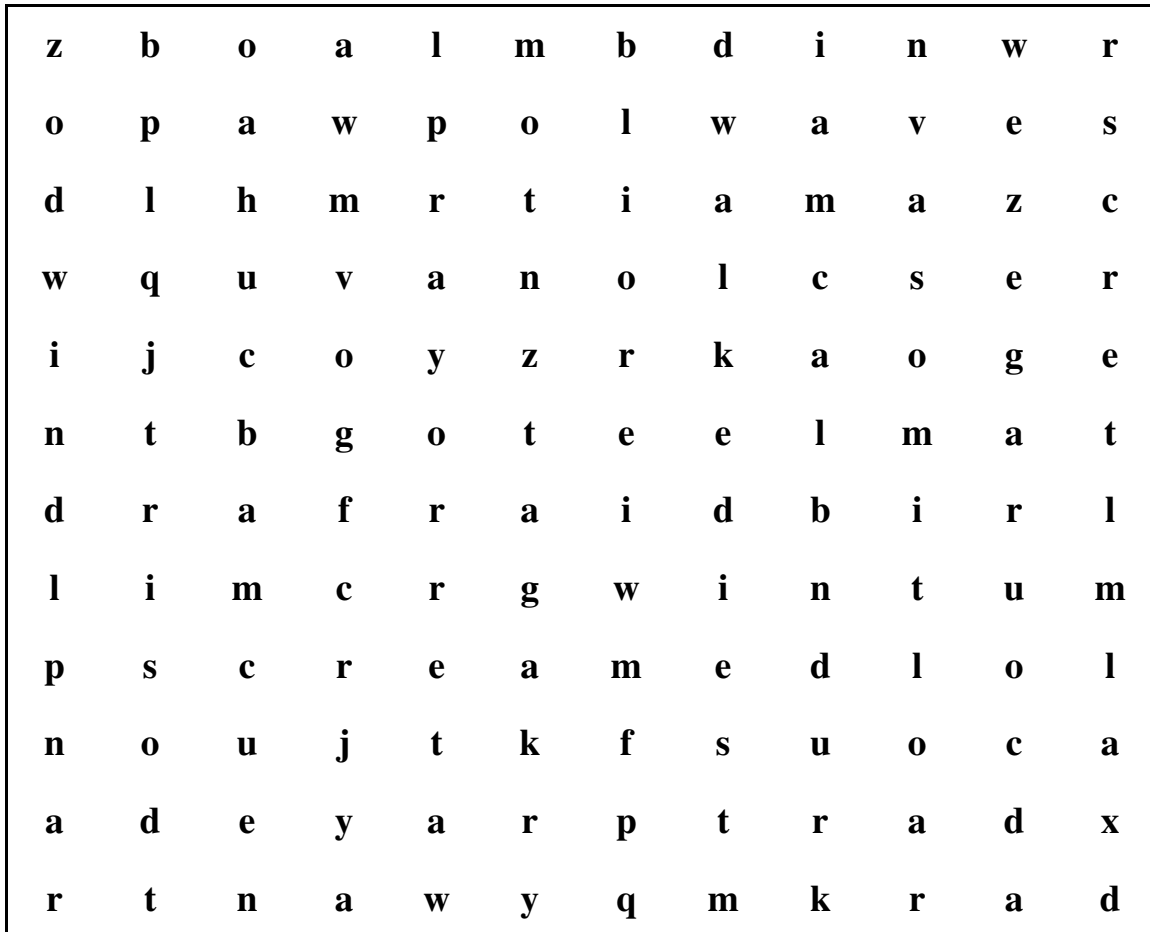
Mark 6:50

“Have courage!
It is I! Do not be
afraid.”

Mark 6:50

Word Search

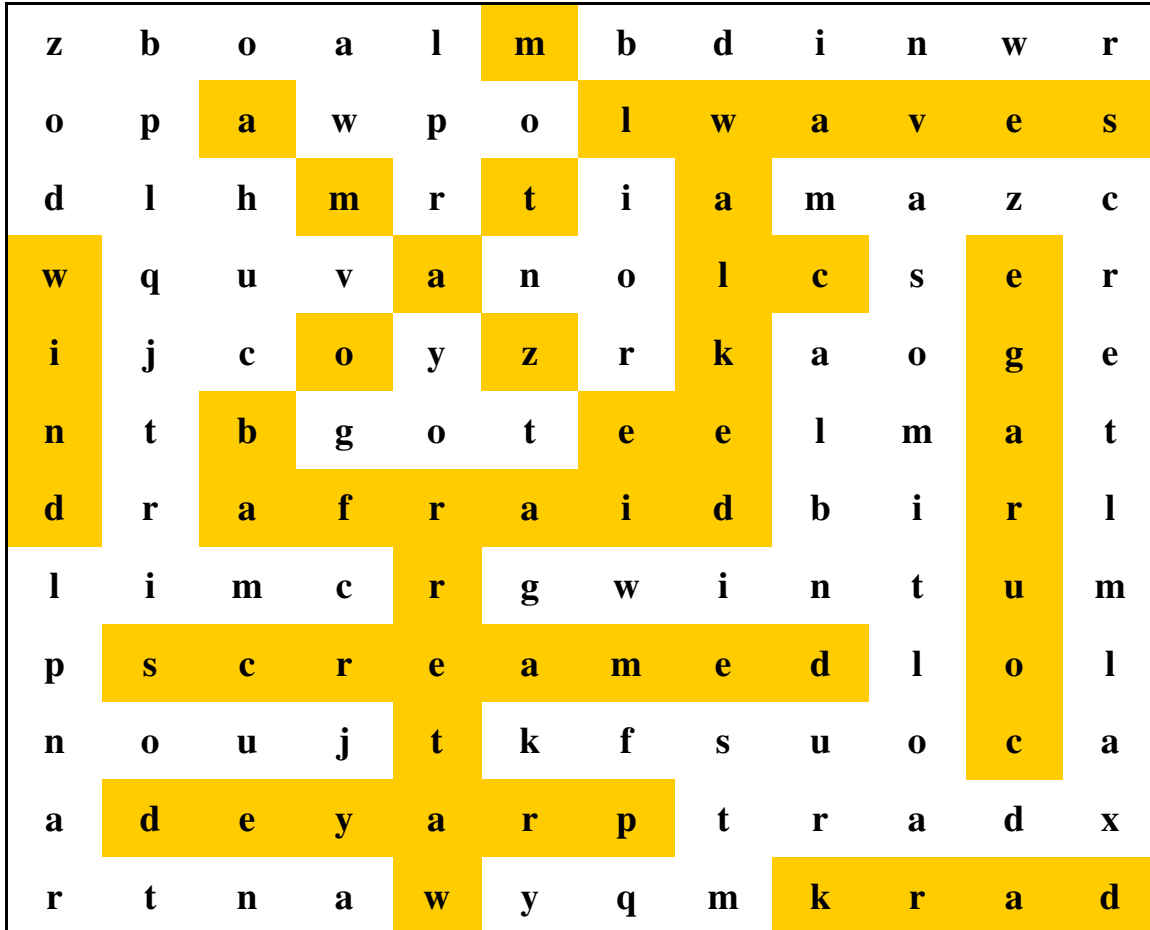
Jesus Walks on Water



walked	boat	water
waves	prayed	afraid
screamed	courage	dark
wind	calm	amazed

Word Search

Jesus Walks on Water



walked	boat	water
waves	prayed	afraid
screamed	courage	dark
wind	calm	amazed

Jesus said,
“Have
__ou__age!
It is __!
Do n__t be
a__ra__d.”