



Walking on Water

Matthew 14:22-23; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21

EXPLORE

As a family, read *The Action Bible* story on pages 580–581 or the Action Bible New Testament on pages 70–71. Read this true Bible story found in Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52, John 6:15–21.

Here is what the story is about:

After feeding the large crowd, Jesus told His disciples to get into a boat and cross the sea. Jesus went to a quiet place to pray. When the disciples were on the boat, a huge storm started, and waves began crashing over the boat. The disciples saw what looked like a ghost walking toward them on the water. They were terrified! Jesus called out to reassure them that it was Him. Peter, excited and brave, wanted to walk on the water, too. Jesus told Peter to step out of the boat and come to Him. Peter walked on water, too! However, when Peter stopped looking at Jesus, he was afraid and started to sink. Jesus quickly pulled him back up and took him to the boat. The disciples were amazed!

REMEMBER

Answer each question with information you learned from the story:

- › **What did Jesus do while the disciples were in the boat?** Jesus went up the mountain to pray.
- › **What did the disciples see as they were sailing?** The disciples saw Jesus walking on the water toward them.
- › **Peter jumped off the boat to go to Jesus. He walked on water! But unlike Jesus, he began to sink. Why?** When Peter took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the water and waves. When he did not focus on trusting Jesus, he began to sink.

DISCUSS

Jesus can perform incredible miracles. After feeding a large crowd, He demonstrated His power by walking on water. Peter, filled with faith, stepped out of the boat and was able to walk on the water as long as he was looking at Jesus. When he looked away, he was afraid and began to sink. Jesus quickly rescued Peter and brought him back to the boat.

- › How can we “keep our eyes” on Jesus?
- › What can we learn from the example of Peter stepping out of the boat and walking on water toward Jesus?
- › How can we learn to trust God in our own lives, especially when we face difficult situations?

PRAY

Read the prayer below aloud or pray your own prayer based on Matthew 14:31.

Dear God, thank You for always reaching out to help us, just as Jesus did for Peter. Please help us to trust You more and not doubt, knowing that You are always there to guide us.

ACT

It can be easy to take our eyes off Jesus when we are distracted, feeling overwhelmed, or challenged with life’s circumstances. Often, we need a reminder of the promises that His Word offers us to refocus our eyes and minds on Jesus. As a family, write down several Bible verses that encourage you when you feel focused on the “waves” in your life instead of on Jesus. Hang these verses around your home where you will see them. Pray these verses to yourself when you need encouragement and remember that Jesus is always with you!