

Church of God Sunday School

PETER WALKS ON THE WATER TO JESUS

Matthew 14:22-33; 16:13-17

Do you remember the story of the little boy's lunch that fed more than five thousand people? Do you remember that when everyone had eaten, there were twelve baskets of food left over? This was a miracle! When the people saw this, they wanted to make Jesus a king (John 6:15).

Jesus did not want this to happen. This was not God's will for Him. So He immediately told His "disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side." Then Jesus "sent the multitudes away," and "he went up into a mountain apart to pray." Jesus felt the need of getting alone and talking to God. Jesus spent many hours in prayer.

Meanwhile, the disciples were about halfway across the lake when a storm came up. They were "tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary." In the early hours of the morning, Jesus began to walk toward the disciples. How do you think Jesus got to the disciples since He didn't have a boat? Jesus walked on top of the water!

When the disciples saw Jesus "walking on the sea," they were afraid! No one could walk on water! They thought it was a spirit. Jesus calmed their fears by saying, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

The voice sounded like Jesus, but the disciples seemed unsure. Peter said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water." Jesus said only one word: "Come." Do you think Peter was a little afraid? Remember, this was not a calm sea, but the waves and

the wind were fierce. Peter had faith, and he stepped out of the ship. He should have immediately sunk into the water, but he didn't! Peter walked on top of the water to Jesus.

Then Peter saw that "the wind [was] boisterous, [and] he was afraid." As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he had no trouble walking on the water. But when he began to look around at the wind and the waves, he began to doubt. That is when his trouble began. Peter began to sink in the water.

By this time, Peter must have been really afraid! Peter was a fisherman, so he was used to being in the water. But this was a terrible storm, and he was far away from the shore (maybe as much as four miles).

Jesus heard Peter's cry for help (just as He hears the cries for help from every boy and girl). "Immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught" Peter. Jesus said, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

When Jesus and Peter "were come into the ship, the wind ceased." The storm stopped! Those who were in the ship worshiped Jesus, saying, "Of a truth thou art the Son of God." Jesus must be God, for Job 9:8 says that "God . . . walks on the waves of the sea" (*International Children's Bible*).

Not long after this, Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" The disciples told Jesus that some thought He was John the Baptist, some thought He was Elijah, and some



thought He was Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

Then Jesus asked His disciples, "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter answered Jesus, "Thou art the Christ [or Messiah], the Son of the living God." Peter knew that Jesus was the Messiah all Israel had been waiting for.

Who is Jesus to you? There are wonderful stories about Jesus in the Bible. Many people believe that Jesus was only a good man. Others believe He is the

Son of God. It is important that Jesus is more than just a Bible story. Jesus wants to come and live in your heart. He wants to be your Savior and your best friend. Will you let Him?

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

—Matthew 16:16  
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Finish the Story



Jesus tells the disciples to get into a _____.



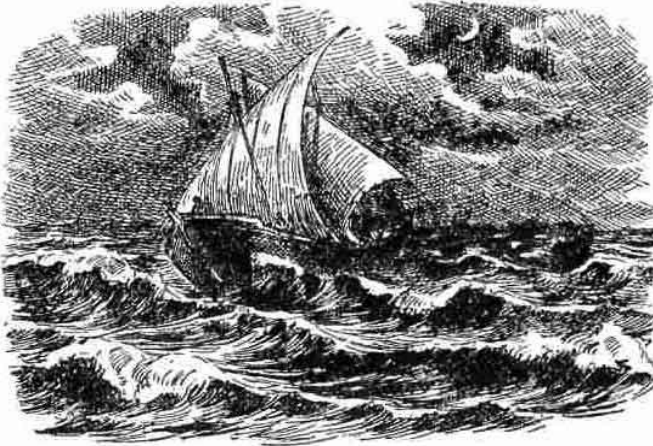
Jesus sends the _____ away.



Jesus went up into a _____.



Jesus spent many hours in _____.



The disciples were in the ship when a _____ came up.



Jesus walked on the _____.



Peter wants to walk on the water to _____.



Peter takes his eyes off of _____.



Peter cries for help, because he is _____.



Jesus reaches out His hand to save _____.