

Bible Lesson

# Jesus Walks on the Water

Matthew 14; John 6



Jesus said, "Be brave. It is me! Don't be afraid."

Matthew 14:27

## Jesus Walks on the Water

Jesus went up into the hills to pray. He was alone, and it was night.

His disciples were in a boat. A strong wind pushed their boat across the water. They had to pull hard on the oars.

Jesus went down to the lake. He walked right on top of the water! The disciples were very afraid.

“It is a ghost!” they cried in fear.

“No. It is I,” Jesus said. “Be brave. Do not be afraid.”

“Lord, if it is really you, tell me to join you on the water,” Peter said.

“Come,” Jesus said. Peter got out of the boat and walked on top of the water to Jesus. But, he saw the waves and felt the wind. He got afraid and started to sink.

“Lord, save me!” Peter cried.

Jesus reached out his hand and helped him. The wind died down. The boat arrived at the shore, just like that.

The disciples were amazed. They said, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

## Questions

1. What did Jesus do that made the disciples afraid?
2. When did Peter start to sink?
3. What was Peter's prayer? (Use quote marks.)
4. How can you keep your eyes on Jesus when you get afraid?

### Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,  
Sometimes I get afraid. Please help me to keep my eyes on you when fears come over me.  
Amen

Write your fears on top of the waves. Write the memory verse under the waves.



# Story S-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g

## 19. Jesus Walks on Water

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

### Before you read:

#### Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Have you ever been in or near deep water and been afraid? Why?
- b) What are some things that make you afraid?
- c) Has God ever helped you to be brave? When?

### After you read: Warning!

Please talk to your children about not going into deep water without a life vest. Jesus gives us common sense as well as faith.

### Cry Out

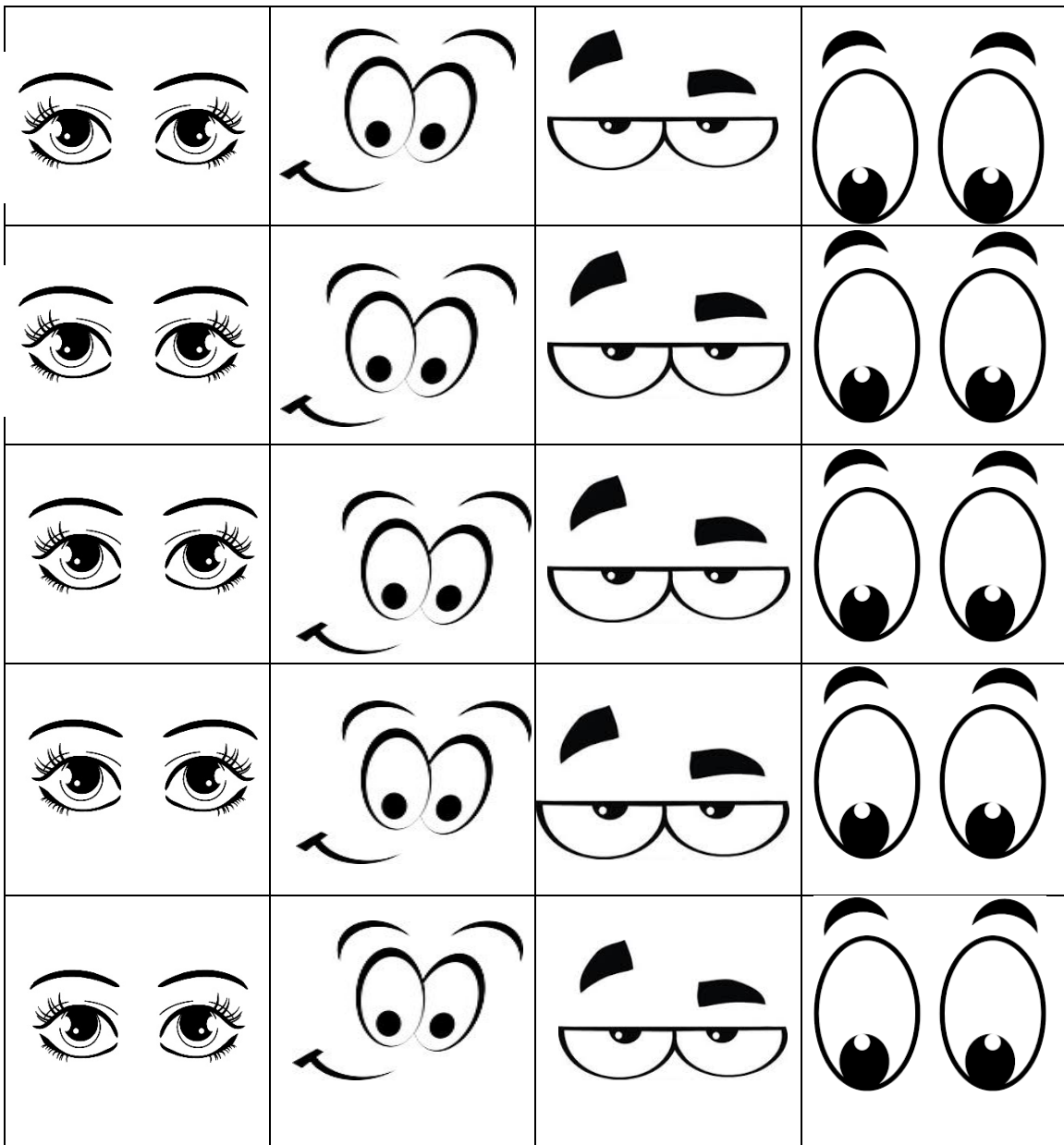
Does God hear long, fancy prayers? Or will he honor short, desperate prayers? Both. Peter cried out, "Lord, save me!" and Jesus rescued him. Jesus promised in John 16:37 "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." Try saying some, one-, two-, and three-word prayers (I need you!). Ask your friends the above questions about prayer. Show them John 16:37 and ask them if they have ever asked Jesus to save them.

### From Fear to a Cheer!

If you look at the key verse and story, you will see that Jesus acknowledged Peter's feelings, but encouraged him to look at who Jesus is, and then be brave. Set up three categories on a board. In the first column, list every word you can think of that is close to the word "fear": nervous, shy, terrified, etc. When the kids run out of words, use [www.thesaurus.com](http://www.thesaurus.com) In the next column do the same for "Lord," and the last column use synonyms for "brave." Have the kids copy the chart onto paper and pray prayers connecting words from all three columns. For example, "Dear Jesus, when I am anxious about answering in class, help me to remember that you are the almighty king and help me to be fearless. Amen."

### Win or Lose by What You Choose

Play this game like "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Tape to a wall one or more of the illustrated page of Jesus walking on water. Give each child four sets of eyes. They use masking tape rolled up behind each set of eyes to tape it onto Jesus. The kids take turns being blindfolded and try to "pin" (tape) their eyes on Jesus. As they try, they say the poem, "I will never loose when I choose to put my eyes on Jesus." If their eyes land on Jesus, they write their name on the eye-card. After the kids use all four pairs, see who has the most eyes on Jesus to become the winner.



## Sink or Swim

Write your problems inside each shark. On the left, draw yourself sinking under the waves. Draw your eyes looking down at your problems. Now on the right, draw yourself holding the hand of Jesus and looking right at him. Keep your eyes in Jesus and you will not sink!

<b>When I look at my problems, I feel myself going dooooowwwnn!</b>	<b>But when I look at Jesus, I KNOW I won't drown!</b>
 <p>The left panel shows a shark with a sad, sinking face and another shark with a determined, swimming face. Above them are simple wavy lines representing water.</p>	 <p>The right panel shows Jesus walking on water, pointing towards the viewer. Below him is a shark with a happy, swimming face. There are small circles above the shark's head, possibly representing bubbles or a thought bubble.</p>