

## Day 2: Jesus travels on a boat

### JESUS WALKS ON WATER

**Scripture reference:** Matthew 14:22-33

**Theme verse:**

*“But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “take heart, it is I, do not be afraid.”*

**Catch phrase:** **Awesome are your feet ... they TRUST Jesus!**

**Lesson goal and objectives:**

Your family will discover that sometimes even disciples struggle with their faith and have a hard time following Jesus. Today your family will explore:

- **Stormy and difficult times that we have experienced.**
- **The ways that Jesus shows up in the middle of our storms.**
- **How we have found hope during this time of COVID-19.**
- **Where it has been hard to get out of the boat and walk on water.**

**Pack your bag**

Your supply list for today is:

daily supply list



- A candle
- Flat Jesus
- Theme verse coloring page (p. 16) and catch phrase coloring page (p. 30)
- Your Bible/Storybook Bible
- Images of Jesus calming the storm or walking on water (you may find these in your children’s Bible, or you can do an internet search for images or visit [freebibleimages.org](http://freebibleimages.org))
- Materials for the Bible story response (see p. 22)
- Snack materials: 2 zip-lock bags (large and small), sugar, vanilla extract, milk, ice, rock salt
- Arts and crafts supplies (see pp. 24-25)
- Science supplies (see pp. 26-27)
- Bowls/buckets for water play
- Anything you might want to use for outdoor water play
- Dice
- A way to play/listen to music
- Flat Jesus journal



## OUR JOURNEY BEGINS

### Gathering activity and theme exploration

Hurray! It's another day! Gather together in your Staycation Bible School space. Don't forget to bring Flat Jesus.



1. Light a candle to represent the light of Christ present with you.



2. Share a hope you have for day today!



3. Learn/sing a "car tune" together. Choose a song from the list at [pres-outlook.org/cartunes](https://pres-outlook.org/cartunes) and sing it together. If you don't know it, look up the words and teach each other a new song.



4. Say a prayer together.

Scan in your Spotify app to go directly to the playlist!



### Opening prayer

God of water and storms, guide us as we learn today. Help us to find joy as we play with water and comfort us as we explore the storms of our lives. We are thankful for this journey as we learn about following you. We know that sometimes we struggle to have the faith to get out of the boat to walk on the water. We are grateful for Jesus' hand reaching towards us to help us have faith to get out of the boat. Amen.



## OPENING ACTIVITY

### "Would you rather?"

This is a fun game of choices. Kids of all ages can do this. Begin by leading the choices and then encourage your travelers to come up with their own. As you all share your answers, ask follow-up questions to see why others chose the choice they did.

A fun alternative is to copy each "Would you rather?" on a piece of paper and put them in a container. Take turns pulling them out and asking them.

- Would you rather go to the zoo or to the park?
- Would you rather go to the beach or the mountains?
- Would you rather ride a donkey or a camel?
- Would you rather travel by boat or travel by plane?
- Would you rather visit a family member or a friend?
- Would you rather visit someplace hot or someplace cold?
- Would you rather ride a bike or scooter?
- Would you rather go shopping or watch a movie?
- Would you rather eat pizza or eat hamburgers?
- Would you rather a sunny day or a rainy day?
- Make up your own.

## EXPLORE TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE AND THEME PHRASE

**Find your Bible verse coloring sheet.** (The theme verse coloring sheet is on page 16.)  
Read the Scripture verse together.



**Theme verse:** Isaiah 52:7 (From the Message)

*How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger bringing good news,  
Breaking the news that all's well,  
proclaiming good times, announcing salvation,  
telling Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

**Let's take a look at the beginning of this verse:**

*"How beautiful on the mountains."*

The mountains are just one place where you can travel to and share God's love. **Make a list of all the places you could go and be a messenger of God's love.** Then **rewrite the first half of the verse** as many times as you would like.

*For example:*

How beautiful at the beach, are the feet of the messenger bringing good news!

**Today you are going to start adding to your theme verse coloring sheet.**

Today, add all the places you brainstormed that you could travel to and share God's love. Write or draw those places on the **outside** of the feet.

**Let's say our theme phrase together:**

**Awesome are your FEET ... they TRUST Jesus!**



**Talk about what the word TRUST means.**

- I wonder, what does the word trust mean?
- Who do you trust? Why do you trust that person?
- Is it possible to stop trusting a person?
- What are some characteristics of a trustworthy person?
- I wonder how we know that we can trust Jesus?



**Color and decorate your Day 2 coloring page.**

Our theme today is all about water and storms. Can you create a "stormy" sea in the feet? Hang it up and use it to decorate your Staycation Bible School space.

# LEARNING ALONG THE WAY — EXPLORING THE STORY



**Read:** Explore the story of Jesus calming a storm and walking on water.

**Matthew 14:22-33** and **Mark 6:45-51** (You can also find storm stories in **Mark 4:35-41**, **Luke 8:22-25** and **Matthew 8:23-27**.)

The story we are focusing on today includes Jesus walking on water, but it is fun to explore the places in the Bible where a similar story shows up.

***Travel guide note:** You can find many images online for the story of Jesus calming the storm. Google “Jesus calming the storm” and “Jesus walks on water.” Use those pictures as your visual for today. Many of the children’s storybook Bibles have Jesus calming the storm, but they do not have the story of Jesus walking on water. (You can find it in the “Spark Story Bible.”)*

*Begin your time together looking at pictures and illustrations of the story. Wonder together what you think the story might be about. Can you find Jesus in the picture? Can you find the disciples? After you look at the pictures, read the story in Matthew 14:22-33 from your Bible.*

*If you want to dig deeper with older children, find the other storm stories in your Bible. Read them together. Discuss how they are different and how they are the same. Wonder together why this story is told in all three Gospels. (Many stories are not found in all three Gospels.)*



## Reflect

1. When the story began, where was Jesus? Where were the disciples? Why does this matter? (Jesus was outside the boat, the disciples were in the boat. Jesus wasn’t with the disciples in the boat like he was in the other storm stories.)
2. If you were a disciple in that boat how would you feel in the middle of the storm? How do you think you would react when you saw someone walking on water toward you?
3. Do you think the disciples were surprised to see Jesus? Why do you think Peter doubted that it was Jesus even after Jesus said, “It is I, do not be afraid”?)
4. Let’s talk about storms. In the Bible storm stories represent difficult times, times when we are afraid, nervous or worried. Share together some times that have felt “stormy” for you and your family during this season of COVID-19. What about other times? As a parent or caregiver, are you willing to share a

time when you experienced a “storm” and you worried that Jesus wasn’t close by? (Note: This question might be harder for younger children, but a “storm” they might be able to identify is being scared of the dark, being nervous on the first day of school or with a new babysitter, or missing a friend).

5. Peter had faith and TRUSTED Jesus and got out of the boat and walked on water. But something happened. What happened? Why do you think Peter sank? (Did you notice the wind that distracted Peter? He lost his focus on Jesus.)
6. Where do we get distracted and lose sight of Jesus?
7. How did Jesus react when Peter started sinking?
8. I wonder, what does this tell you about Jesus and his love for us? Will we be left alone in the middle of a storm? Or is God there with us?
9. This story is about the power of God. The power to walk on water, the power to calm a storm, the power of God (through Jesus) to immediately catch Peter.
10. This is our HOPE! The power of God at work through difficult and stormy times. Where have you seen the power of God at work in this stormy season of COVID-19?

## Respond

Now that you have read the story and reflected on what it means. Give your children an opportunity to respond to the story in a creative way. Every child has a different way of processing and responding. You will be surprised at their creativity.



- **Response 1: Build the story.** Using Legos, Duplos, Magna-Tiles or blocks (or whatever building material you might have), use your imagination and build the story.



- **Response 2: Act out the story.** Recreate it and use costumes and props. Be creative with what you have in your house. Could you recreate a boat? What might you use to make a storm?



- **Response 3: Create the story.** Use markers or crayons, play dough or paint! Create the story artistically.

**CONNECTION POINT:** Document how you respond to the story. Take a picture or make a video. Share your response with your church and with your travel buddy.



## REST STOP

On every trip it's nice to take a break and eat a snack. Choose a time each day when you can rest and refuel. Listen to some "car tunes" as you eat.

**Today's snack suggestion: Make ice cream in a bag.**

You will need: 2 plastic bags (1 large and 1 small), 1/2 cup milk, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 6 tablespoons rock salt, ice.

To make:

1. Mix together the milk, sugar and vanilla extract in the small zip-lock bag. Seal it and make sure it is closed.
2. Fill the bigger bag with the ice and rock salt.
3. Place the small milk bag in the big ice bag. Seal it tightly.
4. Now shake it like a storm. Shake it really hard, but try not to pop it. (Warning: The bag gets really cold, so use a paper towel to protect hands if you need to.)
5. Shake it for about 5 minutes or until it is ice cream consistency.
6. Take the small bag out of the large one. Wipe it down slightly to get the salt off.
7. Enjoy your tasty treat!



## BREAK TIME — LET'S GET UP AND MOVE

**Presbyterians LOVE energizers!** You can find some fun ones on YouTube.

Here are few theme-related energizers you can find at:

[pres-outlook.org/energizers](http://pres-outlook.org/energizers).

- **"Praise the Lord Everyday"** with Yancy
- Sometimes life can feel a little like a roller coaster: Ride the **"Roller Coaster"** with GoNoodle
- A song/energizer about following Jesus — **"I'll Follow Jesus"**

## TODAY'S DAILY SIDE TRIPS



## EXCURSION 1: Arts and crafts

**Option 1** (especially for younger children)

**Stormy sea**

You will need a piece of white paper or card stock, a zip-lock bag, dark blue washable blue paint, light blue washable blue paint, (a third blue paint if you have it) and additional construction paper.

1. Put the **white piece of paper in the zip-lock bag**.
2. Put a **small amount of all the blue paints** you're using **on top of the white paper. Seal the bag**.
3. Let your child **spread the paint all around**. For fun, let them use their feet and see what kind of "waves" they can create.
4. When your child is done, **take the paper out** of the bag. **Let it dry**.
5. Later, **trace your child's foot on the extra paper. Glue it on the "water"** and **make a sail**. Now you have a boat in the middle of the storm.
  - **Alternative:** Just make a boat out of paper, and don't worry about the foot tracing.
  - **Messy alternative:** Forget the plastic bag and let your child paint with their fingers or their feet.

**Option 2** (for any age)

**"Stormy cards"** (Note: This is messy, but a LOT of fun.)

You will need card stock, 2 pans (like a cookie sheet or 9x13 dish), shaving cream, food coloring, plastic knife, 2 spatulas or scrapers and paper towels.

1. **Spray the shaving cream** onto your cookie sheet or baking dish. **Spread it** all around (like it is frosting on a cake) so it fills the dish.
2. Next, take your **food coloring** and **add a few drops** onto the shaving cream. **Start with lighter colors first** and then add your darker colors.
3. **Take the plastic knife** and begin to have fun **making "waves" and swirls with the shaving cream and colors**. Try not to mix them too much!
4. Take your sheet of **cardstock** and **place it on top the colorful shaving cream**. **Press it down** into the shaving cream.
5. **Place the piece of paper on the second cookie sheet** or baking dish. With a second scraper, **scrape all the shaving cream off** the piece of paper. (It is helpful to have a large bowl nearby to put the extra shaving cream.)

6. **Let your paper dry.**
7. When it is all dry, you can **use the paper to make cards**. Be creative. Make notecards, create designs or cut them into postcard sizes.
8. Make as many “stormy cards” as you would like.

### Option 3

#### Waxed paper feet – What would “walking on water” look like?

You will need old crayons (various shades of blue and white), waxed paper, iron, old tea towel and paper towel, scissors, a pencil sharpener, string (or yarn or embroidery floss) and a hole punch.

1. **Lay out a piece of waxed paper** (large enough to trace your child’s foot). Take your **crayons and make crayon shavings**. **Spread them out** all over the waxed paper.
2. Place a **second sheet of waxed paper on top**.
3. Place the **tea towel on top of the waxed paper** (you might want to put a paper towel on top too, to keep crayon shavings from melting on the iron) and iron the waxed paper on a low setting.
4. When the crayon shavings have **completely melted, you are done**.
5. **Once the waxed paper has cooled, trace your child’s foot** on top of the waxed paper. If you use a pen or pencil, retrace it with a marker.
6. **Cut the foot out** and **place a string or yarn through it** so you can hang it up.
7. You can **hang in a window for a “stained glass” look** and have a wonderful reminder to keep your “sight” on Jesus as you go through the storms of life.

### Option 4

#### Pool noodle boats

You will need an old pool noodle, kitchen knife, foam craft sheets and straws.

1. Using a kitchen knife, **slice your pool noodle into approximately 1-inch slices**.
2. Using the point of your scissors, **poke a small hole for your straw in the middle** of the pool noodle discs.
3. **Cut your straws** to be about **3 inches tall**.
4. **Cut triangles** from your **foam sheets** about **2 inches tall**.
5. **Punch a hole** in the **top and bottom** of your **triangles**.
6. **Thread your straw through your holes**.
7. **Insert your straw into your hole** you created in the pool noodle.
8. You have a boat. Make as many as you would like. **Use your pool noodle boats when you play outside today**. Put them into a big container and “make storms.”



## EXCURSION 2: Science and discovery

Today's science and discovery challenge is to **EXPLORE WALKING ON WATER** and **MAKING STORMS**. Both show the power of God in our world!

### Option 1 (for younger children)

#### Walk on water... with play dough

1. Get your blue play dough from yesterday.
2. Spread it out and make "foot prints" in the water.
3. If you can't find a foot print stamp, you can use a small plastic cap and show how you can prints on the "water."

### Option 2

#### Walk on water... with Oobleck

Have you ever tried to make a solid and a liquid? Scientifically you can, it is called a "non-Newtonian fluid" (also known as Oobleck). You will need cornstarch, water and a large dish/pan to make it in.

1. Put 2 cups cornstarch in your bowl.
2. Add 1 cup water.
3. Mix and play. Notice when it becomes like water. Pick it up and see how it becomes a solid.
4. Are you brave enough to use your feet and try to stand on it? What do you notice? Do you sink or do you float?

### Option 3

#### Sink or float

Jesus seemed to float on water and Peter seemed to sink. Experiment with different items in your house and predict and observe: Will they sink or float?

You will need: A bowl of water, items for the experiment, the prediction chart.

Item	Prediction (sink or float)	Result

### Option 4 Create a storm in a jar

These are sometimes called “**calm down**” jars. Truly they can be both. When life is feeling stormy, you can create a storm in your jar. As you focus on the storm “calming” down, you can reflect and refocus to keep your eyes on Jesus.

You will need: A container with a lid (plastic jar, water bottle), water, vegetable oil or baby oil, food coloring and glitter (if you are brave).

#### Directions:

1. Fill the jar with 3/4 full with water.
2. Fill the jar 1/4 full with the oil.
3. Add the food coloring and glitter.
4. Secure the top. (For extra security you can glue the top shut.)
5. Make a storm!



### EXCURSION 3: Stretch your legs (games and play)

#### Option 1: Flat Jesus Challenge

Sometimes we don't know the storms that people are going through. Before you go on a walk today, make a sign with a word or picture of hope. As you go on your walk, find a place where you can hang your sign for your neighbors to see. Take a picture of you with your sign and Flat Jesus.

#### Option 1: Go on a heart hunt.

Create 10 hearts and hang them around your neighborhood. Communicate with your neighbors about the heart hunt. Share with them that the hearts are a sign of hope and love, especially if you are having a bad day. Take a picture with your hearts and Flat Jesus (maybe in one of the heart locations).

#### Option 3: Play with water!

Have a water day. Turn on a sprinkler. Fill up some buckets. Use your boats and make some storms.

#### Option 4: Roll 6 and SPLASH.

You will need a bucket of water and a die. Take turns rolling the die. Any time you get a 6, make a BIG splash in the water with your feet.

- **Variation 1:** Add two numbers (any time you roll a 1 and a 6).
- **Variation 2:** Instead of a splash, dump the bucket of water on your head.



## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS FLAT JESUS??

**Today you are going to explore the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.** PDA's motto is "Out of Chaos, Hope." Doesn't that sound like Jesus calming the storm? When there is a disaster anywhere in the world, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance team is mobilized and goes to the disaster area to provide help physically and emotionally. One of the ways we help fund the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is through our Easter special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing. (You might know this as the fish bank offering.)

You can **watch a video about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** here: <https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/video-what-is-pda/>

**Spend some time as a family exploring the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website** ([pda.pcusa.org](https://pda.pcusa.org)). See if you can find the answers to these questions:

1. Name 4 places where PDA is currently responding.
2. Discover 3 types of disasters PDA responds to.
3. PDA says there are 3 ways you can help them do their work. What are the 3 ways?
4. As a family, choose one of the 3 ways to support PDA (Give, Act, Pray) and choose one of the ways your family wants help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. There are many great suggestions as to how a family can respond without going on a big trip somewhere (but you might need to make a trip to the store to buy supplies!).

Instead of choosing a mission co-worker today, **choose a place that PDA is currently helping.** Take some time to **learn about the work that is being done in that area.**



Get your "Where in the world is Flat Jesus?" journal. **Add something to your journal today about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.**

- If you have a world map, hang it up in your Staycation Bible School space. Find the place where PDA is responding and mark it with a footprint (you could draw a foot on a sticky note) or take a picture of Flat Jesus pointing to the area. Put a copy of the picture in your journal and write a prayer for your chosen mission worker.
- Draw a picture of Flat Jesus and your interpretation of the place where PDA is helping.
- Journal about how your family is going to participate in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Write a prayer to pray for someone who is experiencing a storm.



## Travel buddy time

**Connect with your travel buddy today.** Share together:

1. Tell them about the story you learned today and one thing you learned about the story.
2. Ask your travel buddy about a “storm” they have experienced. How did they find hope when they trusted Jesus?
3. Show them a project you did today. Tell them how it helps you remember the story we heard.
4. Tell them about your Flat Jesus challenge. Challenge them to share a word of hope with their neighbors today.
5. Share with them what you learned about the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. Where is one place that PDA is helping? Tell them how your family is going to participate in the work of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.
6. Play “Would you rather?” with your travel buddy.



## Make your mark

**Take a look at your “Make your Mark” Bingo sheet!** What activity will you participate in today? Perhaps you can take your “stormy cards” that you made today and write a letter to someone. Your words of comfort and hope might provide a moment of peace in the midst of that person’s current storm. Or, you could make a set of cards and gift them to a friend. Whatever you choose to do today, have fun “making your mark”!



## OUR JOURNEY COMES TO CLOSE

**Amazing!** What a crazy second day of Staycation Bible School. Find a quiet spot to gather together as a family. Don't forget to bring Flat Jesus along!

- Light a candle to represent the light of Christ present with you.
- Share with each other a joy you had on your journey.
- Share with each other a "roadblock" you had along the way.
- Share an "aha!" What is something new you learned?
- Sing a favorite "car tune" together.
- Pray using this closing benediction. You can say it together:

**We thank you, Jesus, for this day!  
As we followed you along the way,  
We will travel day and night,  
To follow you and share your light!  
Help us journey far and near,  
To share God's love, with all who hear.  
Amen.**

AWESOME  
ARE  
YOUR  
FEET...  
THEY  
TRUST  
JESUS!

