

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Matthew 14:24-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21



BIBLE VERSE COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Matthew 14:31

You of little faith...why did you doubt?



November 6, 2011



STORY LESSON BIBLE STORY

IMMEDIATELY, the Bible says, after feeding the 5,000, Jesus got his disciples into a boat and sent them across the lake while he went to pray. As the disciples were rowing across the lake, the wind picked up and their boat was being rocked and 'buffeted' by the waves.



"About the fourth watch of the night [Jesus] went out to them, walking on the lake" (Mark 6:48). At first the disciples thought that he was a ghost, but then Jesus said: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Mark 6:50). At this point, according to Mark and John, Jesus then got into the boat and the wind died down. However, in Matthew's account, Peter gets some courage & decides to ask Jesus if he can come out on the water with him. Jesus tells him to come on out. Let's see what happens next:

"Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'**" (Matthew 14:29-31).

Jesus then climbed into the boat and the wind died down.

Matthew also records that those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the son of God" (Matthew 14:33).



LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

How Does One Interpret a Miracle?

Miracles are radical things, supernatural occurrences that we cannot fully understand... nor perhaps were we meant to. It is only in the realm of faith that we can embrace and capture the meaning and significance of miracles. Do you think that the disciples, who were eyewitnesses to the miracles of Jesus, understood them? Or do you think that they kind of missed them every time? Kind of like, 'Okay, I'm not going to miss it this time. Maybe I can figure out how he does it this time. Oh man! Missed it again! I wonder how he does that?' But even at the same time, they still believed it. The rag-tag bunch of groupies around Jesus, had faith. They believed even when they couldn't understand what they were seeing.

Habit of Solitude

I wonder if what Jesus did is a good habit to get into... you know, after an incredible GOD experience (like feeding 5,000 people from two pieces of fish and five loaves of bread), one should get alone and pray. This was important to Jesus. He sent his traveling companions on ahead of him and he stole some time away to be with God. I wonder if we should do that after a camp, or a retreat, or a significant encounter with the living God.

Lifestyle of Faith

It takes faith to step out of the boat.
It takes trust in someone
supernatural to do something
that is seemingly impossible.
Who ever heard of actually
walking on water in the middle
of a lake? No one. Until Jesus...

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus





QUESTIONS REMEMBERING

- 1. What happened when the disciples were rowing the boat across the lake?**
The wind picked up and there was a big storm
- 2. Who showed up, walking on the water?** Jesus
- 3. What did Jesus say to make the wind and the waves stop?** Nothing, he just stepped into the boat and it stopped
- 4. Who asked Jesus if he could walk on the water with him?** Peter
- 5. How did walking on the water work out for Peter?** At first it was okay, but when he looked at the wind & the waves (took his eyes off Jesus) he began to sink
- 6. What did Jesus say about Peter's sinking?** "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31)



COLORING SHEET
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