

READ IT

Trust

Today's Bible story is

Walking on Water

from Matthew 14:22-33.

When we focus on Jesus, fears cannot stop us.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Evening
- Command
- Batter
- Sink
- Terrify
- Doubt
- Ghost
- Cease

In this story, Peter began to sink like a stone. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus tells him, "On this rock I will build my church."

Read the whole story together in the Bible. Then say this prayer together.

Gather around a clear bowl of water and float a boat on its surface as you pray.

Dear Jesus, you are with us in stormy times and calm times. You are with us when we are safely in the boat and when we are stepping out. You are with us when we are standing tall and when we are sinking down. Help us to trust you always. In your name we pray. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 What would it feel like and sound like to be in a boat during a big storm?
- 2 What feels like a storm and causes you to feel fear?
- 3 What can we do to help ourselves remember to focus on Jesus when we are afraid?
- 4 Act out the story: everybody but one, get into the boat and pretend there is a big storm. You are very afraid. Jesus, walk on the water toward the boat and calm the storm. Invite Peter to walk on water with you and save him when he sinks in fear. Trade parts until everyone has had a chance to be Jesus or Peter.



Eye Spark

Look for boats all around you. When you see them, remember the disciples watching Jesus walk toward them over the water.



Ear Spark

How many different ways can "Do not be afraid" be said? Where do you hear it?

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Jesus calls us to him. Play a game where one person is It and stands on one side of the yard just in front of a designated base space. Everyone else remains on the other side. It calls the others by naming something like "Everyone who is wearing red, come over." It tries to catch those who are running over before they reach base. Caught people become disciples and try to catch others who will run after they are called. Trade off being It or designate the first "disciple" caught to be It next. Invite your neighbors to join in. The more families, the better!

For younger kids

All people are afraid sometimes. Draw a picture of Jesus taking Peter's hand when Peter began to sink. Give the picture to someone who you think could be one of Jesus' disciples.

For older kids

Go online and search for images using the keywords "Peter walking on water." What does his facial expression look like in each one? Which storms look the scariest? Try drawing your own picture of this scene.

