

# The Lord Jesus walks on water



Matthew 14:22–36

*During the night the disciples went to Capernaum in a boat. Towards morning Jesus came to meet them walking on the water. The disciples were very frightened, but Jesus calmed them: "Do not fear—it is I!" When Jesus called out, Peter left the ship and also walked on the water to meet the Lord. A strong gust of wind swept across the lake and Peter, becoming frightened, started to sink. He cried out for help and Jesus rescued him saying: "How little faith you have, why did you doubt?" When both Jesus and Peter were in the boat, the disciples said to Jesus: "You are truly the Son of God!"*

The children recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God.  
Those who turn to him in dangerous situations need not be afraid.

**M**any people have gathered around the Lord Jesus. They are happy and excited. He has just performed a great miracle. Expectantly the people speak amongst one another: "This is truly the promised Messiah, the King we have all waited for! He will drive out the Romans!" Even the disciples hope that their Master will soon be a mighty king in Israel. Jesus Christ perceives and feels their expectations and is saddened by them.

1

Towards evening he calls his disciples together and says: "Take a boat and return to Capernaum. I will follow later." They do not like to go without their Master, but they obey him nevertheless.

Jesus wants to be alone. In the evening quiet he goes up a nearby hill where he kneels and prays to God. Hours pass. Strengthened by speaking with his Father, the Lord Jesus gets up again. Suddenly a terrific storm arises. Jesus looks down at the lake. Although the night is dark, he recognizes the boat in which his disciples are being tossed about on the raging sea.

Wishing to help his friends Jesus hastens down the hill towards the lake. Unhesitatingly he steps out onto the water and hurries to the disciples.

The disciples are unaware of this. Desperately fighting the wind and waves, they are making very little progress. Their boat is being tossed this way and that and they are becoming worried: "Will we ever reach the other shore? If only the Master were here with us! He would certainly be able to help us!" But ... what is that? In the distance they see someone approaching their boat. "A ghost! Here comes a ghost!" the men cry out in terror and alarm. But the figure calls out: "Be of good cheer, it is I; do not be afraid!" The disciples immediately recognize their Master's voice. What a relief! But how is he coming to them? He is not sailing in a ship, but walking on the water ..! How is such a thing possible? Absolute amazement is written all over their faces! They are very happy, however, not to be alone any more in this awful storm. They are overjoyed that the Lord Jesus will soon be with them. With renewed confidence they watch him approach. Peter is the first one to overcome his amazement. He calls out, full of enthusiasm and conviction: "Lord, if it is you, please let me come to you!" Jesus replies: "Come!" Then, with his eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, Peter steps out of the boat. Confidently he walks towards the Lord on the water. He is not aware of the incredible thing he is doing.

2

Only when a strong gust of wind lashes the water does Peter

suddenly realize how impossible the situation is in which he finds himself. Shocked, he looks down at the dark, surging waters beneath him. He thinks: "But this is impossible!"

A great wave comes rolling towards him and suddenly Peter becomes afraid. He no longer thinks of Jesus Christ. And in that same moment he starts to sink. "Lord, help me!" he calls out in despair.

Jesus stretches out his hand to his drowning disciple. He pulls him out of the water and speaks calmly to him: "How little faith you have, why did you doubt?" Peter feels ashamed. Still holding his Master's hand, they get into the boat.

They have scarcely seated themselves, when the wind dies down. The surface of the water becomes smooth and calm once more. The disciples fall down on their knees before Jesus saying: "Lord, you are the Son of God indeed!"

3/4

*The disciples were sailing across Lake Gennesaret during the night when they were caught in a severe storm. Suddenly they saw a figure walking towards them over the water—it was Jesus. When he called to them, Peter left the boat and hurried to meet his Master. But suddenly Peter became afraid and started sinking. Jesus rescued him and said: "How little faith you have, why did you doubt?" Then the Lord Jesus calmed the storm.*

*Trust Jesus Christ. He will help you too!*



- 1 Why did the Son of God come to the earth? What did people expect of him?**
- 2 The children speculate as to how this story could continue. We then show and discuss the picture and conclude the story.**
- 3 The children picture themselves in Peter's position and tell how the story ends.**  
**Why was Peter carried by the water at first and then suddenly sank? (At first Peter trusted Jesus Christ completely. Peter looked only at him. That is why he was carried by the water. When he became afraid and doubted, he sank.)**
- 4 We discuss with the children whom we trust.**