

WEEK #1 (5-30-21) Focus on Jesus First (Bob Geer preaches)

Key Words: JESUS!

Memory Verse : Isaiah 35:2 *“Tell everyone who is discouraged, “Be strong and don’t be afraid! God is coming to your rescue”...”*

Scripture: Matt 14:22-33 Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: **“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”**

28 **“Lord, if it’s you,”** Peter replied, **“tell me to come to you on the water.”**

29 **“Come,”** he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **“You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”**

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, **“Truly you are the Son of God.”**

Application / Message: Jesus walking on water is one of the best known miracles he performed. In this passage in Matthew 14:22-33, the disciples were out on a boat in a lake, and there were some pretty big winds and waves coming up. Suddenly, in the middle of the night, they saw someone walking over the water to them. They were pretty scared at first, but then the person called out, and it was Jesus!

Peter took the initiative by asking Jesus to tell him to come to him. Notice that he did not ask for his circumstances to be changed. We have a responsibility for our own faith. Jesus calls Peter to come to him on the water. *Walking on water is a physical impossibility*, as well we know. Of course, **Jesus is master of the impossible**, and the story of His encounter with the disciples on the lake is an exciting story. There’s more to it than that, though. **This story also demonstrates the importance of putting our faith in Christ. Peter tried to do the impossible, and on his own he failed. (He demonstrated his FAITH; but soon lost his FOCUS.) This story reminds us that we are only capable of anything through God’s power .(Remember our previous lesson about being filled with God’s Spirit?) It’s a powerful lesson in keeping our eyes (and faith) focused on Jesus, NOT on what the world around us says is real and what is impossible.**

Hands on Activities:

- Crafts about Jesus walking on the water that can be done at home can be seen at <https://youtu.be/0ypn8etDEGU>
- **Tightrope walk** - Place a piece of string or yarn on the floor. Can you walk on it without falling, tripping? Try it watching the floor, try it watching a family member's eyes only. Can you do it with your eyes shut and walk towards their voice? Remember Peter could do it when he looked into Jesus' eyes and heard his voice.
- **"SURF THE STORM"**: Draw a picture of a wave with you underneath it in a boat. Inside the wave write different kinds of storms you may have in your life. (*upset with a friend, being bullied, sickness, loss of a pet or loved one, being scared, angry, or sad*) Draw Jesus in the water close to the shore. Write ways for you to keep FOCUSED on Jesus. (*praise songs, prayer, scripture, being with other believers to help each other*)
- **Cut out a heart shape and write FROG on it. Place it somewhere you will see it each day.**

F (fully)

R (rely)

O (on)

G (God)

PRAYER: (*Have kids repeat each line after the reader - who CAN be another child or an adult*)

- Dear God, (**Dear God**)
- Thank you for rescuing us from the stormy seas of life (***Thank you for rescuing us from the stormy seas of life***)
- Help us to remember to trust in you for strength and power (***Help us to remember to trust in you for strength and power***)
- Help us to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on you (**Help us to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on you**)
- We can do nothing without you (**We can do nothing without you**)
- Thank you for giving us strength (**Thank you for giving us strength**)
- Thank you for your love (**Thank you for your love**)
- We love you, God! (**We love you, God!**)

In Jesus name, Amen! (**In Jesus name, Amen!**) (*courtesy of Ministry-to-children.org*)

Song **Children's chant - "Peter, James and John in a Sailboat"**

at <https://youtu.be/KECzcedLeSU>

1. Peter, James, and John in a sailboat (3x) Out on the deep blue sea
2. Fished all night and caught no fishes (3x) Out on the deep blue sea
3. Christ came walking down by the water (3x) Out on the deep blue sea
4. Now their nets are full and breaking (3x) Out on the deep blue sea
5. Called their friends to come and help them (3x) Out on the deep blue sea

6. Out on the deep blue (2x) Out on the deep blue...sea.

Hillsong "Oceans" at https://youtu.be/dy9nwe9_xzw

You called me out upon the waters /The great unknown /Where feet may fail/
And there I find You in the mystery / In oceans deep / my faith will stand

oceans rise
And I will call upon Your name / And keep my eyes above the waves/When

My soul will rest in Your embrace / For I am Yours / You are mine.

now
Your grace abounds in deepest waters / Your sovereign hand / Will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me / You've never failed / And You won't start

rise
So I will call upon Your name / And keep my eyes above the waves/When oceans

My soul will rest in Your embrace / For I am Yours / You are mine./ You are mine.

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders / Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever you would call me / Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger / in the presence of my Savior (REPEAT 4 MORE
TIMES

rise
Yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah / Oh, Jesus, You're my God
I will call upon Your name / And keep my eyes above the waves/When oceans

My soul will rest in Your embrace / For I am Yours / You are mine.

Optional Activities

- **Watch the Bible story at <https://youtu.be/K2t3-S6eSUU>**
- **Sink/ Float activity:** Can we walk on water? No, but Peter did when he cried out to Jesus and kept his eyes on Jesus. This is called faith. Let's see what sinks or floats on water. Find a dishpan or rectangular baking pan. Fill with water ½ way. Find some items and see if they float or sink. Objects to try: paper, pencil, pen, crayon, rock, nail, key, keys, (do NOT put electronics in the water!!!) paper cup, plastic cup, silverware, plastic silverware, match box car, string, rubber duck, sunglasses. What other things can you "test"? How can you keep focused on Jesus and grow your faith like Peter? Thank you Jesus for being with us through the storms of this life. May we always call on you.

I	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D
C	D	G	G	R	S	A	V	E	N
S	I	N	K	A	S	E	I	Y	I
T	H	I	A	Y	R	F	L	D	W
B	G	N	E	H	I	U	F	I	D
U	H	E	H	R	R	L	O	R	A
O	O	V	R	T	A	E	R	C	E
D	S	E	A	K	I	N	C	E	H
E	T	O	E	O	R	A	E	F	R
O	B	H	T	R	U	O	F	E	A

DISCIPLES	BOAT	PRAY
LAKE	HEADWIND	TERRIFIED
GHOST	FEAR	COURAGE
SINK	FAITH	DOUBT

