

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Walks on Water

Mark 6:42-52

Opening

- Gathering: Give examples of how people responded to a situation in faith while others responded in doubt. What impact did the faith have?
- Today's Focus: Jesus walked on water to teach His disciples the power of faith and the weakness of doubt.
- Key Verses: *Immediately He spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."* Mark 6:50
Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him.
"You of little faith," He said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:31

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Homecoming News (*Mark 6:7-44*)

- What was special about the day in last week's lesson?
Mark 6:7, 12-13, 30
- What other news came to Jesus that same day?
Matthew 14:9-13
- Why did Jesus and His disciples have to travel to process all of this news?
Mark 6:31

Not So Solitary (*Mark 6:32-44*)

- How restful and relaxing was this solitary place?
Mark 6:33
- How did Jesus react when faced with a large crowd at this solitary place?
Mark 6:34
- How else did Jesus care for this crowd that interfered with His disciples' rest and regrouping?
Luke 9:11-17
- How did the crowd misunderstand Jesus' purpose for having them sit in groups of 50?
John 6:14-15

Roadblocks to Satan (*Matthew 14:22-23*)

- How did Jesus make sure that His disciples didn't get caught up in this idea of making Jesus king?
Matthew 14:22
- What would Jesus do after He sent the crowd home?
Matthew 14:23
- What was one possible topic of Jesus' prayer?
Matthew 4:8-10
- For what else did Jesus likely pray?
Luke 22:32
- Can we hope for such prayer help as the intercession that Jesus made for His disciples?
Romans 8:26-27

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Travel Plans (Mark 6:45)

Where had the Feeding of the 5000 taken place?

Luke 9:10

Were they in the town?

Luke 9:12

Where did Jesus tell the disciples to sail?

Mark 6:45

Were they going to tie up the boat and spend the night there?

John 6:16-17

The Weather Started Getting Rough ... (Mark 6:47)

What happened during this short moonlight sail to Bethsaida?

John 6:18

What impact did this storm have on the disciples' short trip to rendezvous with Jesus?

Matthew 14:24

How far off-course had the boat been pushed?

Mark 6:47

Hills and valleys around the Sea of Galilee acts as a funnel to compress winds and storms

Not uncommon for normally calm waters to suddenly turn violent from strong storms

Wiersbe: *While crossing this very sea one summer afternoon, I asked an Israeli tour guide if he had ever been in such a storm. "I certainly have!" he replied, throwing up his hands and shaking his head. "And I never want to be in one like it again!"*

Where's Jesus? (Mark 6:48a)

How did these experienced sailors respond to such storms on the Sea of Galilee?

Matthew 8:23-27

Did they turn to Jesus this time?

Mark 6:47

While they lost sight of Jesus, had He lost sight of them?

Mark 6:48a

What should we remember when we encounter storms of life and feel alone?

Matthew 28:20b

How should we react to storms of life with this knowledge?

Deuteronomy 31:6

Long Time Coming (Mark 6:48b)

How did Jesus respond to His disciples' situation?

Mark 6:48b

How long had the disciples been fighting the storm?

Matthew 14:25

Note: Romans divided the night into four watches: 6-9 pm, 9-12 pm, 12-3 am, 3-6 am

How had they spent this time?

John 6:19

What should we remember when we feel God is slow in responding to our needs?

2 Peter 3:9

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The Peace of I Am (*Mark 6:49-50*)

Why were they terrified when they saw Jesus approaching the boat?

Matthew 14:26

Note: To sailors, a ghost on the water meant they would perish at sea

Which of the apostles saw this ghost and how did Jesus comfort them?

Mark 6:49-50

Does this remind you of another story that also showed the apostles' superstitious doubts?

Luke 24:36-39

The Greek for *It is I* in all three versions is that Jesus says *I am*. What is significant about this?

Exodus 3:13-14

How did Jews respond when Jesus later made this statement in public?

John 8:56-59

Stepping Out in Faith (*Matthew 14:28-31*)

How did Peter reveal his eager faith when he realized it was Jesus and not a ghost?

Matthew 14:28

Did Peter follow through in faith when Jesus gave him the command?

Matthew 14:29

What happened the instant Peter turned his eyes from Jesus and focused on himself?

Matthew 14:30

How did Jesus respond to Peter's cry for help?

Matthew 14:31

Peter's Example

What should we learn from the fact that Jesus didn't calm the storm before Peter stepped out?

Psalms 46:1-2

What should we especially remember from Peter's experience?

Hebrews 12:2

Why should we do this?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Jesus pointed out Peter's little faith. What was the positive part of Peter's little faith?

Luke 17:11-19

O, Ye of Little Faith (*Matthew 14:31*)

Jesus says *you of little faith* three other times. What were the circumstances then?

Matthew 6:28-31

Matthew 8:23-26

Matthew 16:5-10

What message is Jesus giving in all four situations?

Matthew 6:33

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Miracle Three (*Matthew 14:32-34*)

What third miracle happened in this story (after Jesus and Peter walking on the water)?

Matthew 14:32

What did the apostles think about these amazing miracles?

Mark 6:51

How did the apostles respond in their amazement?

Matthew 14:33

Miracle Four (*John 6:21*)

What fourth miracle then happened?

John 6:21

Did they land at Bethsaida or Capernaum?

Matthew 14:34

A Place of Rest (*Matthew 11:28*)

After an exhausting night, were Jesus and the apostles finally able to get some rest?

Mark 6:54-56

Where were the apostles able to find rest?

Matthew 11:28

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What things have terrified me in the past?
(*Mark 6:49-50; 13:7-8; Exodus 14:10-12; 1 Kings 19:1-3; Job 3:25-26; Psalm 31:13; Isaiah 21:4; Ezekiel 12:17-20*)
2. When have I found courage in Jesus during frightening situations?
(*Mark 6:50; 5:35-36; Exodus 14:13-14; Psalm 31:14-16; 46:1-2; 56:3, 11; Philippians 4:6-7; Hebrews 2:14-15*)
3. What situations have improved for me as soon as I began to entrust them to Jesus?
(*Mark 6:51; 5:35-42; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Psalm 31:21-22; Matthew 6:25-34; 11:28-30*)
4. When have I boldly stepped out in faith?
(*Matthew 14:28-29; Genesis 12:4; 25:1-18; 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 32-50; Acts 4:1-22*)
5. When have I lost faith and how did matters change?
(*Matthew 14:30-31; Exodus 32; Joshua 22:15-20; Acts 5:1-11; Galatians 3:6-9; Revelation 3:15-16*)