

# 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*) = Last week's lesson

What was special about the day in last week's lesson?

Mark 6:7, 12-13, 30 = Apostles returned to Jesus with exciting reports of God's work thru them

What other news came to Jesus that same day?

Matthew 14:9-13 = That John the Baptist had been executed; Jesus sailed to a solitary place

Why did Jesus and His disciples have to travel to process all of this news?

Mark 6:31 = Too many people crowded them, needed time to themselves

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

How restful and relaxing was this solitary place?

Mark 6:33 = It wasn't; the crowd got there ahead and was waiting

How did Jesus react when faced with a large crowd at this solitary place?

Mark 6:34 = He had compassion on His sheep and taught them

How else did Jesus care for this crowd that interfered with His disciples' rest and regrouping?

Luke 9:11-17 = He healed them then fed them – it was *late in the afternoon*

How did the crowd misunderstand Jesus' purpose for having them sit in groups of 50?

John 6:14-15 = They thought it was a count of military force and wanted to rally a revolution

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 = He sent the disciples away in the boat while He dismissed the crowd

What would Jesus do after He sent the crowd home?

Matthew 14:23 = *He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray*

What was one possible topic of Jesus' prayer?

Matthew 4:8-10 = Strength to withstand Satan's temptations of power

For what else did Jesus likely pray?

Luke 22:32 = For the faith of His disciples

Can we hope for such prayer help as the intercession that Jesus made for His disciples?

Romans 8:26-27 = Yes, *the Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express*

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### Travel Plans (Mark 6:45)

Where had the Feeding of the 5000 taken place? = Show on map

Luke 9:10 = *A town called Bethsaida* - northeast shore of Sea of Galilee

Were they in the town?

Luke 9:12 = No, they were in a remote place in the region of Bethsaida

Where did Jesus tell the disciples to sail?

Mark 6:45 = To Bethsaida – not very far away

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

John 6:16-17 = No, they would pick up Jesus and then go on to Capernaum

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

What happened during this short moonlight sail to Bethsaida?

John 6:18 = *A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough*

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

Matthew 14:24 = The boat was sent out to sea by the wind and waves

How far off-course had the boat been pushed?

Mark 6:47 = *The boat was in the middle of the lake*

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 = They feared for their lives and turned to Jesus to save them

Did they turn to Jesus this time?

Mark 6:47 = No, Jesus *was alone on land* - He wasn't in the boat with them

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

Mark 6:48a = No, He saw them from where He was

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

Matthew 28:20b = Jesus is always with us

How should we react to storms of life with this knowledge? = *God will never leave you or forsake you*

Deuteronomy 31:6 = *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them*

### Long Time Coming (Mark 6:48b)

How did Jesus respond to His disciples' situation?

Mark 6:48b = He went out to them – looked like He might pass them by

How long had the disciples been fighting the storm?

Matthew 14:25 = All night, Now between 3 and 6 am

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? = Hours of work proved they couldn't help themselves, hopeless

John 6:19 = They fought the storm by rowing; had rowed 3 to 3.5 miles – Sea is 7 miles wide

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

2 Peter 3:9 = *God is not slow ... but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish*

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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 = They thought He was a ghost

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 = All saw Him, *Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.*

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

Luke 24:36-39 = Easter evening, *Peace be with you. It is I. Why are you troubled?*

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 = *I am* was the name God had given Himself

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

John 8:56-59 = They tried to stone Him for blasphemy - for calling Himself God

### 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 = He asked Jesus to just say the word so Peter could come to Him

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

Matthew 14:29 = Yes, he walked in faith and his faith held him up on the water

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

Matthew 14:30 = He began to sink when he thought of doing it on his own

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

Matthew 14:31 = He reached out His hand

### 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 = Obedience in faith doesn't remove storms but enables us to get through them

What should we especially remember from Peter's experience?

Hebrews 12:2 = Keep our eyes focused on Jesus

Why should we do this? = *An eternal glory that far outweighs* our momentary troubles

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 = By fixing our eyes on the eternal, we don't lose heart and are renewed

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

Luke 17:11-19 = Peter at least stepped out in faith, the other eleven didn't

### 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 = Human worries of needs - clothes, food, drink, etc

Matthew 8:23-26 = Apostles afraid of storm on the lake

Matthew 16:5-10 = Apostles worried about forgetting to bring bread

What message is Jesus giving in all four situations?

Matthew 6:33 = Seek God's kingdom in faith and He'll take care of you

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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 = The wind died down when Jesus got in the boat

What did the apostles think about these amazing miracles?

Mark 6:51 = *They were completely amazed*

How did the apostles respond in their amazement?

Matthew 14:33 = They worshipped Jesus and stated faith in Him as the Son of God

### Miracle Four (*John 6:21*)

What fourth miracle then happened?

John 6:21 = They immediately reached the shore where they were heading

Did they land at Bethsaida or Capernaum?

Matthew 14:34 = Neither, they had been blown to Gennesaret - show on map

### 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 = No, people immediately recognized Jesus and came from all over

Where were the apostles able to find rest? = In the open arms of Jesus

Matthew 11:28 = *Come to Me, all you who are weary..., and I will give you rest*

### 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*)