

NT 17 Jesus Walks on Water

Links: [Lesson](#) | [Resources](#)

Reference: Matthew 14:22-33

Big Idea: Repent and have faith in Jesus to be saved.

Verse: Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (ESV)

Plain text	Things to say. Questions are normally followed by the answer in parentheses.
<i>Italicized text</i>	Quotes from the NIV Bible to read.
► Yellow text	Something you need to do.
► Grey text	Something you need to draw on a chalk/marker board.
***	Dialogue for a story character actor (child) to repeat after you, one line at a time.

A. Lesson - Length: 25-30 min.

Resources: *Story Pictures 1-12*

Materials: Tape

Setup and Notes:

- When you see ► **ACTION:**, do the action described and have the kids repeat it after you.
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- We're going to read another story about Jesus from the New Testament today, which is the second half of the Bible. Jesus is God's Son who came to earth to save the world from their sins. To show people he was God's Son, he did many amazing things we call miracles. Today's story is about one of Jesus' amazing miracles.
 - The New Testament begins with four books that tell us true stories about Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
 - **ACTION: Say "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."**
 - Today, we'll read from the Bible book of Matthew.
 - **Show the kids how to find Matthew in your Bible.**
 - For each part of the story, we'll tape a picture to the wall. Each picture will also have part of a story rhyme on it, which will help us remember the story. Let's start reading from Matthew 14.
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- ²² *Right away Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then he sent the crowd away. - Matthew 14:22*
 - **Show and read STORY PICTURE 1 to the kids:**
 - The disciples' boat sailed off.
 - **Tape to the wall behind the teaching area, on the far left side.**
 - Jesus told his disciples to get into a boat and sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is kind of like a lake. It was nighttime and getting pretty dark out. But Jesus didn't go with them.
 - **Read the caption on the STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat it after you.**
 - Let's read what Jesus did.
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- ²³ *After he had sent them away, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. - Matt. 14:23*
 - **Show and read STORY PICTURE 2 to the kids:**
 - And Jesus went to pray.
 - **Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**

- Jesus sent the disciples off on the boat to sail across the Sea of Galilee. What did Jesus do? (Went up a mountainside to pray.)
- What does it mean to pray? (To talk with God.)
- Did you know that Jesus prayed? Even though Jesus is God's Son, he still prayed to God, his Father. We don't know what Jesus prayed about on the mountain, but the Bible describes many times that Jesus prayed to God.
 - ► **Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**
- Let's go back to the book of Matthew and see what happened next.

- ²⁴ *The boat was already a long way from land. It was being pounded by the waves because the wind was blowing against it. - Matt. 14:24*
 - ► **Show and read STORY PICTURE 3 to the kids:**
 - A windstorm blew back their boat.
 - ► **Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- As the disciples sailed their boat across the Sea of Galilee, a great windstorm came and blew right in their face. What does wind do to water? (Make waves.)
- Is it easy to sail across a sea when the wind is blowing against you and the waves are crashing over you? (No.)
- The disciples were stuck in the windstorm for hours and hours. I'm sure they were tired and scared.
 - ► **Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**
- So far, Jesus is praying on a mountain by himself and the disciples are stuck in a windstorm. Let's get back to the story.

- ²⁵ *Early in the morning, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake. - Matt. 14:25*
 - ► **Show and read STORY PICTURE 4 to the kids:**
 - So Jesus walked on waves.
 - ► **Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- What unusual thing was Jesus doing? (Walking on top of water.)
- This is the amazing miracle that Jesus did in today's story. He walked on top of water, something nobody in the world can do. If we tried it, we'd just sink! Why could Jesus walk on water? (He's God and God can do everything.)
 - ► **Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**
- Imagine you're one of the disciples, in a boat in a wild storm in the middle of the night. You're tired from working for hours, trying to get across the Sea of Galilee. In the storm, you see something walking to you on the waves! Let's read what they thought.

- ²⁶ *They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said. And they cried out in fear. - Matt. 14:26*
 - ► **Show and read STORY PICTURE 5 to the kids:**
 - They thought Jesus was a ghost.
 - ► **Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- Why do you think the disciples thought Jesus was a ghost? (It was dark and late, they were tired, and Jesus was walking on water.)
- If you were stuck in a boat in a windstorm in the middle of the night and you thought a ghost was floating on the water to come and get you, how would you feel? (Scared out of your mind.)
 - ► **Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**
- Let's read on and see if Jesus jumps out and yells, "Boo!"

- ²⁷ *Right away Jesus called out to them, "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid." - Matt. 14:27*
 - ► **Show and read STORY PICTURE 6 to the kids:**

- But Jesus said, “It’s me!”
 - ► **Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- Let’s repeat together what Jesus said to the disciples.
 - ► **Have the kids repeat:**
 - *Be brave!*
 - *It is I.*
 - *Don’t be afraid. - Matt. 14:27*
- Jesus could tell that the disciples were afraid. He told them that it was him, Jesus, and not a ghost.
- Still, it’s the middle of the night, in the middle of a windstorm, and Jesus is standing on top of the waves, which probably looked super strange. Let’s read if the disciples believed him.

- ²⁸ “Lord, is it you?” Peter asked. “If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ “Come,” Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. - Matt. 14:28-29
 - ► **Show and read STORY PICTURE 7 to the kids:**
 - Pete took some steps on water.
 - ► **Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, still wasn’t sure this guy walking on the water was Jesus. He wanted proof that it was Jesus. Let’s repeat what he said.
 - ► **Have the kids repeat:**
 - ²⁸ *Lord, is it you?*
 - *If it is*
 - *tell me to come to you*
 - *on the water. - Matt. 14:28*
- Peter wanted Jesus to help him walk on the water, too. If Jesus could do that, then Peter would know it’s him and not a ghost. So, Jesus said to Peter, “Come.” What happened to Peter when he stepped out of the boat? (He walked on the water just like Jesus.)
- Now two people are walking on water! Why was Peter able to walk on water? Was he God, too? (No, Jesus made Peter stay above the water.)
- Peter had faith in Jesus. Faith means believing that God’s Word is true.
 - ► **Have the kids repeat:**
 - Faith is believing
 - God’s Word is true.
- Peter had faith that Jesus could make him walk on water.
 - ► **Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**
- The story isn’t over yet! Back to the book of Matthew.

- ³⁰ But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!” - Matt. 14:30
 - ► **Show and read STORY PICTURE 8 to the kids:**
 - Pete sank into the sea.
 - ► **Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- What happened to Peter? (He started to sink.)
- Peter started to sink when he when he saw something and became afraid. What did Peter see? (The wind and waves.)
- Let’s repeat what Peter said.
 - ► **Have the kids repeat after you:**
 - ³⁰ *Lord!*
 - *Save me! - Matt. 14:30*
- When Peter said, “Lord!”, who was he talking to? (Jesus.)

- When Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the water, he had faith that Jesus could make him walk on water. He believed that Jesus could make it happen.
- But then he took his eyes off of Jesus and started looking at the scary stuff around him. He might have thought, “What in the world am I doing, standing on water?” All of the sudden, he didn’t have as much faith that Jesus could keep him afloat. And that was when he started to sink!
 - **► Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**
- Did Jesus let Peter drown? We can find the answer back in the book of Matthew.

- ³¹ *Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him... - Matt. 14:31*
 - **► Show and read STORY PICTURE 9 to the kids:**
 - Jesus rescued sinking Pete.
 - **► Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- When Jesus saw that Peter was sinking, Jesus reached out his hand, caught Peter and helped him in the boat. And listen to what the Bible says happened when they got into the boat.
- ³² *When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. - Matt. 14:32*
 - **► Show and read STORY PICTURE 10 to the kids:**
 - Right then, the storm was done.
 - **► Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- Right after Jesus helped Peter into the boat, the storm immediately stopped! Who do you think made the storm stop? (God did.)
 - **► Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**

- We just have a couple more verses to read to finish today’s story. Let’s start by saying together what Jesus said to Peter.
 - **► Have the kids repeat:**
 - ³¹ *Your faith is so small!*
 - *Why did you doubt me? - Matt. 14:31*
 - **► Show and read STORY PICTURE 11 to the kids:**
 - Jesus said, “Your faith is small!”
 - **► Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- Jesus said to Peter, “Your faith is small.” Do you remember what faith is? It’s trusting or believing that God’s word is true.
- When Jesus told Peter to walk out on the water, Peter had *faith* and trusted that Jesus would keep him afloat. But when Peter saw the waves, Peter began to doubt that Jesus was telling the truth. His faith went from big to tiny! It was when he stopped having faith in Jesus and started doubting that Peter started to sink.
 - **► Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**

- After seeing Jesus walk on water, rescue Peter, and make the wind die down, Jesus’ twelve disciples knew that there was something special about Jesus. Here’s what the Bible says.
- ³³ *Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus.*
- Now let’s say together what the disciples said about Jesus.
 - **► Have the kids repeat:**
 - *You really are the Son of God! - Matt. 14:33*
 - **► Show and read STORY PICTURE 12 to the kids:**
 - The twelve said, “He’s God’s Son!”
 - **► Tape it to the right of the previous picture.**
- Jesus’ twelve disciples said, “He’s God’s Son!” Why do you think they said that? (He walked on water, something only God can do.)

- Now we've read the entire story. Let's review the whole thing together.
 - ► **Read the captions on each STORY PICTURE and have the kids repeat after you.**
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- The twelve disciples learned that Jesus is God's Son. That's why he could take a stroll on the water. But do you think Jesus came to earth as a human being to run on the waves? No, of course not! Let's read a verse from the book of John together that tells us why Jesus came.
 - ► **Have the kids repeat:**
 - *[God] sent his Son...*
 - *to save the world through him. - John 3:17*
 - Jesus didn't come to walk on waves; he came to save the world! The Bible tells us how Jesus saved the world. Let's say a verse from the book of 1 Corinthians together.
 - ► **Have them repeat after you:**
 - ³ *Christ [Jesus] died for our sins...*
 - ⁴ *He was buried.*
 - *He was raised from the dead*
 - *on the third day. - 1 Cor. 15:3-4*
 - Jesus saved the world by dying for our sins. When did Jesus die? (When he was nailed to a wooden cross.)
 - After Jesus was buried, what happened on the third day? (He rose from the dead.)
 - Jesus didn't just come to walk on water. He came to pay the punishment for your sin and for my sin. He paid our punishment when his body was nailed to a cross and he died.
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- If you want Jesus to save you from sin, the Bible says you must repent, or turn away from your sins...
 - ► **Pretend to turn a steering wheel.**
 - ...and have faith, or trust, in Jesus.
 - ► **Pretend to grab a piece of rope in front of you.**
 - We talked about faith earlier. Who had faith that Jesus could make him walk on water? (Peter.)
 - What happened when Peter stopped putting his faith in Jesus? (He sank.)
 - Amazing things happen when we have faith in Jesus. Peter walked on water when he had faith! But then he began to sink! Peter had to call out to Jesus to save from drowning. Just like Peter, you and I need to call out to Jesus to save us from our sins.
 - When we repent (turn from our sins) and put our faith in Jesus, God promises to forgive all of our sins, to help us obey him, and to give us a home with him forever! Those are all the good things we get instead of being punished for our sins! That's what it means to be saved from our sins!
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- What should we remember about today's story? We certainly should remember that Jesus can do anything, even walk on water. We should remember what the twelve disciples said: "He's God's Son." We should remember that Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins. And we should remember that we need to repent (turn from our sins) and put our faith in Jesus to be saved from our sins, just like Peter was saved from drowning!
 - So here's today's big idea: repent and have faith in Jesus to be saved.
 - ► **Teach the kids the motions for the big idea.**
 - ► **Say the big idea and do the motions with the kids several times.**

Big Idea and Motions: Repent and put your faith in Jesus to be saved.

- Repent - pretend to turn a steering wheel 180°
- Faith - pretend to grab a rope in front of you with two hands
- Jesus - form a cross with your forearms
- Saved - make the baseball "Safe!" sign

B. Instruction Activity - Length: 15 min.

Resources and Materials: *Instruction Activity Sheet (1 per kid)*, Crayons

Setup/Notes:

- When the children are instructed to fill items in the blank on their Instruction Activity Sheets (IAS), you might need to write these words on the board so the kids know how to spell them.
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- ▶ **Hand each child an age-appropriate IAS and CRAYONS/PENCILS.**
 - ▶ **Have them trace/fill in the big idea at the top:**
 - Repent and put your faith in Jesus to be saved.
 - The word “faith” can be a tricky word for kids to understand. In fact, the Bible uses different words that mean the same thing as faith does. Together, we’ll look a few verses that use words like the word “faith”.
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- First, let me read you a verse from the book of Hebrews.
 - ▶ **Read Hebrews 11:1.**
 - ¹ *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see. - Heb. 11:1*
 - ▶ **Have them trace/write FAITH in that verse.**
 - This verse tells us what faith means. It’s being sure and certain about what we hope for and can’t see.
 - Who’s a really important person who we cannot see? (God.)
 - It takes faith to believe that God is the one true God, even though we cannot see him.
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- Let’s read another verse that uses a word like “faith”. It’s from the book of Proverbs.
 - ▶ **Read Proverbs 3:5.**
 - ⁵ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. - Prov. 3:5*
 - ▶ **Have them trace/write TRUST in that verse.**
 - Trust is another word that is a lot like “faith.” We can have trust in things we can’t see or don’t know for sure. For instance, I can trust a chair to hold me up, even if it’s a chair I haven’t seen before.
 - ▶ **Briefly sit in a chair on the room.**
 - Or you can trust me to catch you when you fall.
 - ▶ **Have a kid come up and do the following:**
 - Stand with their back to you and hold their arms out sideways
 - Fall backwards with their legs straight as you catch them under their arms
 - Since trust and faith are similar words, we can trust that God is real, even though we don’t see him. That’s just like we can have faith that God is real, even though we can’t see him.
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- Let’s read one more verse with another word that is like faith. It’s from the book of Acts.
 - ▶ **Read Acts 16:31 to the kids.**
 - ³¹ *They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and your family will be saved.” - Acts 16:31*
 - ▶ **Have the kids write BELIEVE in that verse.**
 - Believe is a third word that is a lot like faith. What does it mean to believe? (To think that something is right or true.)
 - If I told you my hair was (insert your hair color), would you believe me? Why? (Yes, because you can see it.)
 - If I told you I had a pet cat named Fluffy, would you believe me? Why or why not? (Various responses.)
 - We believe in many things we cannot see. That’s why the word “believe” is a lot like faith and trust.
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- We learned three words that are a lot like each other: faith, trust, and believe.

- ► **Have them write the following words at the bottom of their IAS, from left to right:**
 - Faith, Trust, Believe.
- You might be wondering why we're spending so much time learning what it means to have faith, to trust, and to believe. That's because these words tell us how we can be saved. Let's read that last verse again.
 - ► **Read, or have a child read, Acts 16:31.**
 - ³¹ *They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and your family will be saved." - Acts. 16:31*
- What does this verse say will happen if we believe in Jesus? (We'll be saved.)
- It's important to know the words "faith, believe, and trust" because the Bible says that's how we can be saved from our sins.
 - ► **As you encounter underlined words in the section below, stop and have the kids point to that word on their IAS.**
- To be saved from our sins, we must have faith in Jesus. To say it another way, we must trust in Jesus. Or to say it a third way, we must believe in Jesus.

C. Verse Activity - Length: 15 min.

Resources and Materials: Verse Sheet (1 per kid), Verse Cards, Ice Cup Instructions, Freezer, Disposable Party Cups, Popsicle Sticks, Tape, Clear Plastic Tub, Small Cooler

Verse / Motions: Ephesians 2:8, ESV - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

- Grace - place one hand on your heart and reach out to help with the other
- Saved - make the baseball "safe" sign
- Faith - pretend to grab a rope in front of you like it's a rescue line
- This is not - wag your index finger "no"
- Gift - pretend to hold a present and give it to someone else
- God - point up

**This is the ASL sign for faith/trust. Follow this link to watch a video: <http://goo.gl/4cHz3>*

Setup:

- Write the verse on the board.
- Fill the plastic tub $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water and set it in the middle of the teaching area.
- Keep the Ice Cups in a freezer until right before the lesson. Keep them in a cooler as you do the lesson.
- *Note: If you have a large group of children, duplicate the resources, materials, and setup. Then, run two instances of the activity below simultaneously.*

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- Today's verse is about faith. And we know if we have faith in Jesus, we'll be saved from our sins.
 - ► **Read the verse in short phrases, having the kids echo after you.**
 - Our verse has the word "grace." Grace is when you love someone who doesn't deserve it. Like when a mom and dad love their little kid even while he's throwing a major temper tantrum. And faith means to believe in or trust God.
 - This verse tells us how we're saved. First, we're saved by grace, which means God loves us even when we don't deserve it. Second, we're saved through faith. To be saved from our sins, we need to have faith, or trust, that Jesus died and rose again to save us. Third, we don't save ourselves; it's a gift from God.
 - ► **Hand each kid a VERSE SHEET. Direct them to quickly trace/write the missing words.**
 - As we learn this verse, we're going to make our verse cards walk on water. But we'll need a floating ice cube to do it since we aren't Jesus and can't do miracles!

How to Do the Activity - Repeat...

1. Select a kid to come up front. Have them select one of the VERSE CARDS from the pile.
2. Read the VERSE CARD to the kids. Teach the motions for those words. Erase those words from the board.
 - a. *Optional: give them something they can quickly draw to represent those words on their sheets.*
3. Attach that VERSE CARD to the STICK of an ICE CUP. Have the child "float" it in the TUB OF WATER.
4. Say the verse as a group, doing any motions you've taught them so far.
 - a. *The first 3-4 times through, say the verse in short phrases and have them echo each after you.*

D. Review Activity - Length: 15 min.

Resources and Materials: Review Pages, Crayons

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- As we told today's story, we hung up pictures. These pictures together made a rhyme that told us the whole story. As we review the story together, you'll draw the pictures for us. Then, we'll put everything together and read the story while we look at our friends' drawings.

How to Do the Activity

1. Divide the children into twelve groups.
 - a. *Or, divide them into six groups and give them two Review Pages to color.*
2. Give each group a REVIEW PAGE and some CRAYONS.
3. Tell each group to work together for about 7-10 minutes to illustrate the caption on their page.
4. When finished, have the kids sit in a circle.
5. Set the finished REVIEW PAGES face up in the center of the circle.
6. Have the kids help you put the REVIEW PAGES in order.
7. With the REVIEW PAGES assembled, read (or have an older child read) the story to the kids, showing the kids' drawings as you do.
8. If you have extra time, have the children answer questions from below.

Questions // Answers

1. As the story began, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do? // Sail their boat across the Sea of Galilee
2. What did Jesus do on the mountain? // He prayed alone.
3. What problem did the disciples have on their boat trip? // A windstorm kept pushing them back
4. How did Jesus get to the disciples' boat? // He walked on the water
5. What did the disciples think Jesus was? // A ghost
6. What did Peter want Jesus to do to prove he wasn't a ghost? // Call Peter to walk on the waves
7. What happened when Peter first stepped on the water? // He walked on it
8. What happened when Peter looked at the wind and waves? // He began to sink
9. What are the two other words that are like faith? // Believe and trust

Parent Email Information

To help your students' parents reinforce the lesson, you may wish to email the following information

NT 17 Jesus Walks on Water

Reference: Matthew 14:22-33

Story Summary:

Jesus sent the disciples to sail across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus stayed behind, went up a mountainside, and prayed into the evening. The disciples' boat was pounded by waves because the wind was blowing against it.

Early in the morning, Jesus walked upon the lake towards the disciples. The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost. Jesus said, "Be brave! It is I," but Peter, one of the disciples wasn't so sure. "If it is you," he said, "tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus told Peter to come. Peter stepped out onto the waves and walked on water toward Jesus. But seeing the waves, Peter became afraid and started to sink.

Jesus grabbed Peter and helped him into the boat. Right then, the wind died down. Back in the boat, the twelve disciples worshipped Jesus, saying, "You really are the Son of God!"

Big Idea and Motions: Repent and put your faith in Jesus to be saved.

- Repent - pretend to turn a steering wheel 180°
- Faith - pretend to grab a rope in front of you with two hands
- Jesus - form a cross with your forearms
- Saved - make the baseball "Safe!" sign

Verse / Motions: Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (ESV)

- Grace - place one hand on your heart and reach out to help with the other
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Questions to Ask Throughout the Week

1. As the story began, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do? // Sail their boat across the Sea of Galilee
2. What did Jesus do on the mountain? // He prayed alone.
3. What problem did the disciples have on their boat trip? // A windstorm kept pushing them back
4. How did Jesus get to the disciples' boat? // He walked on the water
5. What did the disciples think Jesus was? // A ghost
6. What did Peter want Jesus to do to prove he wasn't a ghost? // Call Peter to walk on the waves
7. What happened when Peter first stepped on the water? // He walked on it
8. What happened when Peter looked at the wind and waves? // He began to sink
9. What are the two other words that are like faith? // Believe and trust
10. What is today's big idea? // Repent and put your faith in Jesus to be saved
11. What is today's Bible verse? // Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (ESV)

Google Docs Links

- Lesson - <https://goo.gl/B8PEHV>
- Resources - <https://goo.gl/V3ootK>