

# Life of Christ

## Jesus Walks on Water

John 6:16-21

### Younger Verse

But Jesus said to them, It is I; be not afraid! John 6:20 (AMP)

### Older Verse

But Jesus said to them, It is I; be not afraid! John 6:20 (AMP)

### Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

What do you do when you are afraid? Whom do you trust in when things are scary? In our Bible story, we will see who can be trusted and why!

Do you remember from our Bible lesson last week that Jesus was at the Sea of Galilee with His disciples and a very big crowd that had followed Him. How many people were in that crowd? 5,000 or more! Jesus fed the crowd with a little boy's lunch. What did the little boy bring for lunch? Five small loaves of bread and two little fishes! After the people had eaten and seen the sign or miracle that Jesus performed, they wanted to make Him king! Why would they want to make Jesus a king? Well, they had waited many years for God to send His Son and they had begun to think that He would come as a king, with battles and victories, winning wars. God had a better way, though. So, when Jesus realized what they wanted to do, and that they were going to grab Him and take Him away, He went away by Himself to the mountain.

As it got dark there, on the far side of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus' disciples got into a boat and headed to the city of Capernaum which was across the sea. The disciples were in the boat; it was dark and Jesus had not come to them yet and the wind was starting to blow. What do you remember about the sea? Where did Jesus and His disciples sit when they first arrived on the far side of the sea? They sat on a mountain because the sea is surrounded by mountains and valleys. Now, on the Sea of Galilee, when the wind blows, it causes big waves because it comes up and over the mountains and stirs up the sea. And because of the mountains, the wind can get trapped. The Sea of Galilee can get very rough, very quickly. The waves get big and the sea gets rough and it can be really dangerous. Jesus' disciples knew this. At least four of

### Lesson Goals

Introduce Jesus' power over nature.  
Introduce the concept of Jesus reigning in our lives.  
Discuss Jesus' trustworthiness.

them were fisherman. They knew the danger of being on the sea during a storm. But rather than being afraid of the storm, they were afraid at what they saw! What could they have seen around them that would have frightened them? They saw someone! And the disciples knew that there was not another boat coming from the far side of the sea because they had gotten into the last boat! They had seen someone and that someone was *on* the sea, not *in* the sea. That someone was Jesus - and He was walking on the water.

Jesus knew that they were afraid and He calmed them by saying, "It is I, don't be afraid!" The disciples knew Jesus' voice and they trusted Him. The disciples let Jesus into the boat with them. Immediately after Jesus came into the boat with them, they arrived at the shore where they had been trying to go.

It seems pretty impossible that someone could walk on water, doesn't it? But God can do the impossible. And we have seen that Jesus didn't say what people expected Him to say and did not do things the way everyone expected Him to. God didn't send Jesus to be a king the way the people thought he would. He had a better way. God sent Jesus to die for us and to be king of our hearts and lives. Jesus came to show us a more wonderful way to live here on earth and to make a way for us to live with Him forever! Have you let Him be king of your heart? Have you put Him in control, instead of doing things your way? If not, let's talk! And if He is king of your heart, do you trust Him when everything around you seems scary? You should. Jesus is in control over the wind and the waves. He can take care of anything that might scare us!

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

Play the "Rhythm Game." Pat hands on knees twice, clap twice, snap with right hand then left while saying a word from the verse. Go around the room this way, helping each child say the next word of the verse. Practice this several times, beginning with the verse written out for them to see at first, if necessary.

**Prayer Time**

Pray, thanking God that He has power over the wind and waves, with Jesus walking on water that would usually drown us. Pray that all would be willing to make Jesus king of their hearts and lives.

**Preparing for Next Week**

Lesson 16  
Jesus is the Bread of Life  
John 6:22-59

# Preschool Lesson

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## Jesus Walks on Water!

Sing: "With Jesus in Your Boat You Can Smile Through the Storm."

Hey, who remembers our Bible lesson from last week? What was Jesus able to do with five small loaves of bread and two little fishes? He fed a bunch of people!

After Jesus multiplied the bread and the fish, He went to the mountain by Himself to pray. His disciples got into a boat and headed to the other side of the sea. It was night, so the disciples were surrounded by darkness. They went a few miles in the boat and then the boat started to move from side to side. The wind began to blow very hard. The waves started splashing into the boat and the water started getting very rough. And then, they saw something! That something was a someone! And that someone was walking towards them, on the water and in the storm. They were afraid. They had never seen anyone walk on the water before. But then that someone walking on the water said, "It's me, don't be afraid!" It was Jesus! He had left the place where He was praying and went to be with His disciples. And when they heard His voice, they weren't afraid anymore. They felt safe with Jesus. They let Jesus into the boat and then were immediately where they wanted to go.

Can you walk on top of the water? Well, maybe if the water is just a mud puddle and not very deep. But Jesus walked on top of the deep water, in a storm! The waves couldn't stop Jesus. The winds couldn't stop Jesus. Jesus is more powerful than the wind and the waves. Jesus is more powerful than anything!

Pray: "Thank you, God, for the wind and the waves. Thank you for being more powerful than the wind and the waves. Help me to know I am safe with you and that I can smile, even in the storm."

# Activities

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- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Tell the story from a blue tarp with children surrounding you or allow students to act out the story using a large cardboard box as your boat. Students not in the boat can provide sound effects!
- Make edible sailboats. Make the hull with either pear halves or small loaves of bread-halved. Sail may be made with half a slice of cheese (halved from corner to corner), from fruit roll sheets or from half a slice of sandwich bread. Attach with toothpicks.
- Make origami boats.
- Make an “ocean in a bottle.”
- Play tag with “it” being the wind and the others being Jesus’ disciples in the sailboat.
- Bring pictures and maps to illustrate the terrain around the Sea of Galilee.
- If you have some older students, talk about Jesus’ prayer life. Discuss the importance of us praying if it was necessary that Jesus prayed.