

It's All about God's Kingdom



Week #5: Trusting God's Kingdom – Youth/Adult Packet

Matthew 14:22-33

Welcome to Calvary's first ever VBS TO GO Program. We hope you find this to be an enjoyable family experience. Each week from July 13th through August 17th we will be providing a packet for children, youth and adults. These activity packets will go hand in hand with our weekly sermons. Each week we will provide you with a new scripture and activities. Here at Calvary we are working to provide ways to CONNECT, LEARN, and SERVE, and this year's VBS is touching all of these areas.

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.”

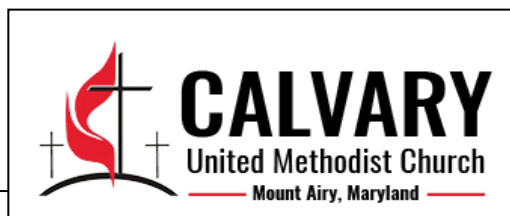
²⁹ “Come,” he said.

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 worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

We welcome you to join us at home for our online Sunday service at 9am through Calvary –MtAiry Facebook page or our website at calvary-mtairy.org/teaching Also, please register with us on our webpage at calvary-mtairy.org/VBS so we can keep you up to date with any changes or VBS related information

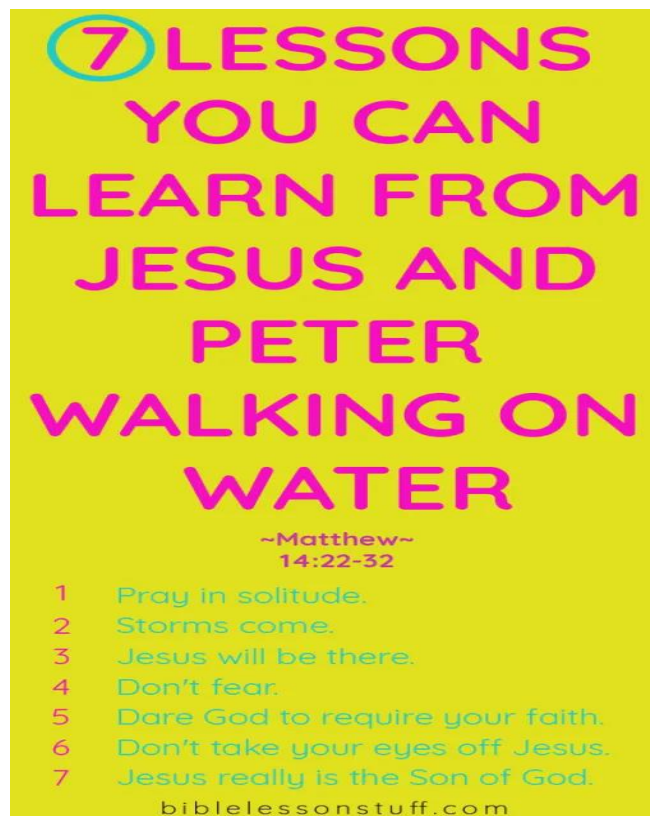


Discussion Questions

- Peter sank when he took his eyes off Jesus. What happens when people today take their “eyes” off Jesus?
- What does it mean to take your “eyes” off Jesus? (To stop focusing on Him. To stop living for Him and walking with Him and to put your focus on other things in life.)
- What are some things besides Jesus that students your age focus on and live for?
- What are some things besides Jesus that adults focus on and live for? -What do you think a person would need to do today to put their focus back on Jesus? (Return to God—Get rid of any sin that they have allowed to come into their lives and ask forgiveness. Then, like Peter, call out to God, and begin to walk with Jesus again.)
- Today we also talked about prayer and the power of prayer when people pray together. So, out of curiosity, how often each week do you pray with other people? Tell me about it.

The memory verse is Matthew 14:27:

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



Science Experiment for “Walking on Water”

<https://biblelessonstuff.com/object-lesson-on-faith-walk-on-water>



I’m going to ask you a simple question: can you walk on water? Of course you can’t!

But sometimes, even things that are impossible to do, become possible with a little faith – so here we go, our object lesson on faith...

What you need:

1. A glass or bowl of water
2. A box of paper clips
3. Dish detergent

How to do this Object Lesson on Faith

Try floating a paper clip on the water. It doesn’t work. Paper clips sink. Nothing unusual there.

Next, bend one paper clip to make a “holder” for a second paper clip to rest on. Place the second paper clip flat on the paper-clip-holder, and gently submerge the paper clips into the water. This time, the unbent paper clip will actually float on the surface of the water.

Lesson: by ourselves, we can’t do “the impossible”. However, if we rest on Jesus, or have faith in Him (like the paper clip rests on the holder), He will enable us to do what we never thought we could.

But we also need to beware of “doubt”. Just like Peter in the story, once he took his eyes off Jesus, he let doubt and fear invade his mind, and he started to sink.

Place some dish detergent in the water around the floating paper clip. It will start to sink.

Lesson: Jesus promises that even with faith the size of a mustard seed, we can move mountains. But if doubt crowds out our faith, we’ll start to sink just like Peter did. We need to guard our hearts against doubting Jesus’ power.

This object lesson on faith demonstrates:

1. That we need to rest on Jesus in order to do whatever seems impossible to us (just like the paper clip holder was necessary).
2. That doubt will cause us to falter (just like the dish detergent causes the floating paper clips to sink).

The Science behind the Object Lesson

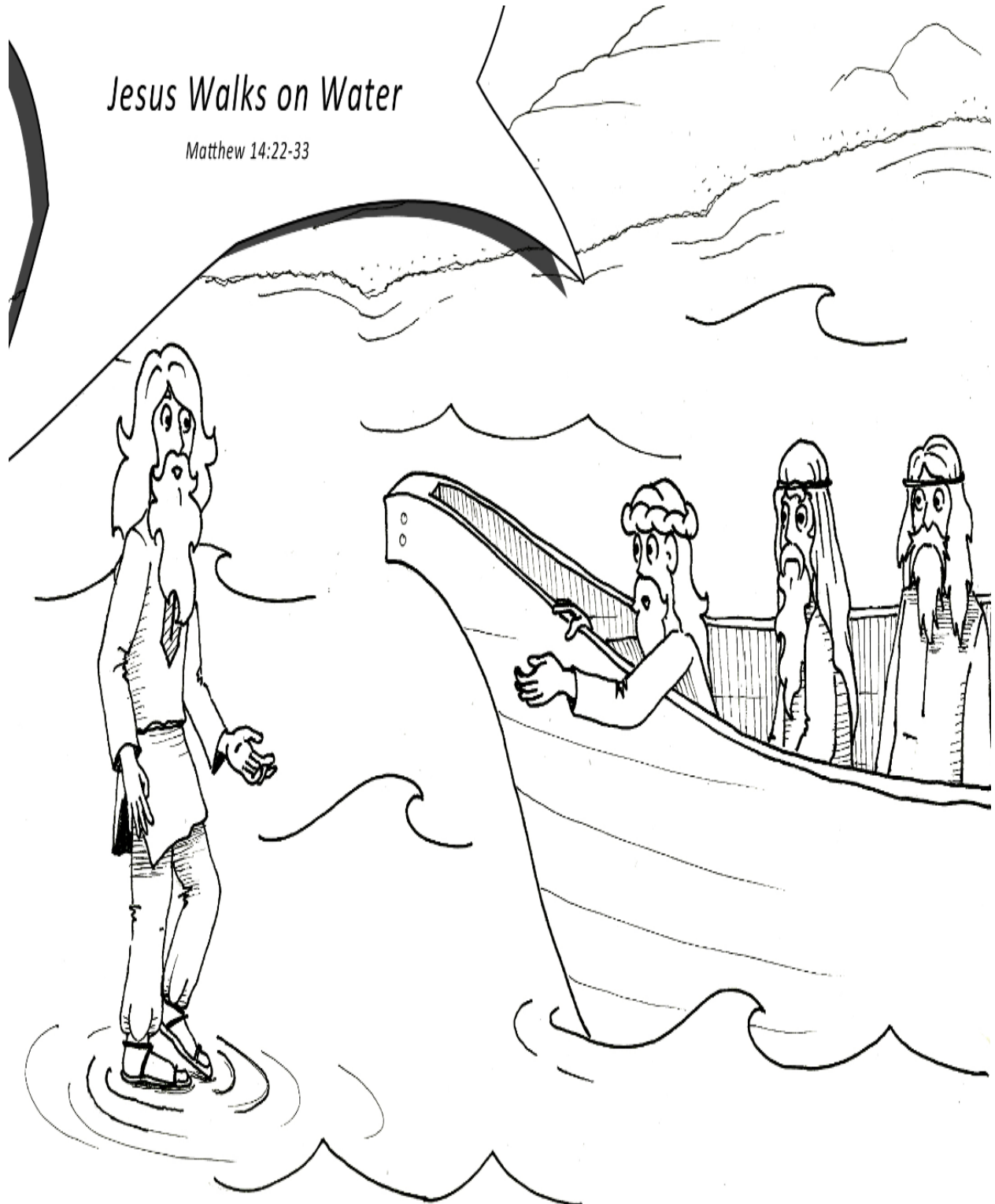
This object lesson on faith, or making bits of metal float on water, is all about surface tension of the water. The water molecules at the surface of water create really strong bonds with one another (stronger than the bonds between water molecules that aren't at the surface). Water actually has the [strongest surface tension](#) of any liquid other than mercury! So if you lay the paper clip flat on the water, and don't break the surface tension, the molecular cohesive bonds will actually support the weight of the coin!

Dish detergent breaks down the cohesive bonds between the water molecules, which is why the paper clip will then sink if you add the detergent to the water.

1. **The importance of prayer in solitude.** Jesus started the night praying by himself up in the hills. Solitude. Prayer. Devotion. Meditation. This practice of quiet prayer and reflection is oh-so-important for instilling faith, for cultivating relationship with our Father. And I think critical to the rest of the story.
2. **We'll find ourselves in storms sometimes, at inconvenient times and will have to fight for our survival.** Storms come up at the most inconvenient of times – 3am is a fairly terrible time to be fighting off the waves – but no matter when they arise, we've got to bravely face them whatever the time and place. We love to romanticize storms, don't we? However, this is just a reminder that there is frequently nothing very "spiritual" about the storms of life...in the midst of them, we just need to fight to survive. To survive emotionally, to survive physically, to survive spiritually – to "not lose faith".
3. **Jesus will be there, perhaps just in unexpected ways.** Jesus is there in the midst of our storms. But He may show up in unusual ways. The disciples thought he was a ghost!
4. **Don't fear.** I'm not quite sure what fears Jesus is dispelling in this scripture – is he quieting the disciples' fears of the storm? Or is he telling the disciples not to be afraid of "the ghost" (himself)? Both were probably creating fear in the disciples hearts. But Jesus commanded them to take courage.
5. **Challenge God to require faith from you.** I just love what happens next. Peter commands Jesus to call him out of the boat. In that moment, Peter was "all in" – his faith was absolute, like that of a child's. There wasn't a second thought about the ridiculousness, the impossibilities of walking on water. There was just his admiration for Jesus, and his own impetuosity that allowed him to jump out of that boat and walk on water toward his Rabbi. Are you childish enough to ask crazy things from God? Go for it...
6. **Don't take your eyes off Jesus.** If you've been so fortunate to have Jesus allow you to miraculously walk on water, don't start doubting when you see the wind and waves, as Peter did. But know that even in your moment of weakness, Jesus will reach out his hand. Keep your faith.
7. **Jesus really is the Son of God.** When Jesus climbed back in the boat, the storm died down. The disciples, earlier that day, had just seen Jesus feed 5000 people with 5 loaves of bread and two small fish. And yet, it was here, in the middle of the night, in the midst of a storm, that walking on water and causing the wind to stop made them exclaim in amazement "You really are the Son of God!"

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22-33



*Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything.
Ask and pray. Give thanks to him. Philippians 4:6*