

LESSON PLAN

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Matthew 14:22-33

Lesson Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:5 - "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Lesson Aim: Jesus is always with those who have received Him as Savior, so they need not be afraid.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever been left alone by your parents or by friends and you thought they were never coming back? (Let them discuss their experiences briefly.) No one likes to be left alone and forgotten. Our memory verse tells us about Jesus' promise never to leave those who have come to Him for salvation,

HE (for Authority): The last part of Hebrews 13:5 is Jesus' promise to His true followers that He will never leave them nor forsake them. To forsake someone can be worse than leaving them. When you leave someone you can return to them, but when you forsake someone, you never return to them. Jesus has promised that He will never do either one of these things to those who have received Him as their Savior. How can Jesus say that to us now when He is in heaven? He has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in every believer and so, by the Spirit, Jesus is always with us and in us.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's story we will learn how Jesus saw His disciples from the mountain where He was praying and knew all about the difficulties they were having on the sea, even though they did not know it.

I. Jesus Prayed on the Mountain - Matthew `14:22-23

Jesus compelled His disciples to get into a ship and leave the area (22). The people were trying to make Jesus their "Bread King" (John 6:15), but He would have no part of it. Jesus sent His disciples away from these people, lest they join with these people. However, when Jesus sent them away, He would not forget them as they sailed across the Sea of Galilee.

WE: We can be assured that He will not forget us when He sends us away to serve Him.

Jesus went to a mountain to pray (23). Jesus undoubtedly prayed about this whole situation that had just happened. We also know from other Scriptures that He prayed for His disciples. He still prays and intercedes for those that love and follow Him (Rom 8:34).

WE: If we have received Jesus as our Savior, we can be sure He is praying for us. Think of it. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is praying for us! Those who worship other gods do not have this kind of help.

II. Jesus Saw the Disciples' Problem - Matthew 14:24

Jesus saw His disciples toiling as they were rowing their ship against a strong wind (Mark 6:48). He did not lose sight of His disciples, even though it was still in the dark of night. He knew all about their struggles.

WE: We have a God who knows us and all the things that are happening to us. He can see us in the night as well as in the day (Ps 139:11-12). So He sees all of our problems and He has the power to help us solve our problems.

III. Jesus Walked on the Water - Matthew 14:25-27

Jesus walked on the water to His disciples between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. (fourth watch). He performed a miracle, so He could be with His disciples (25).

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WE: We are blessed with a greater miracle than having Jesus walk on the water to be with us. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to come in His name and live in us as soon as we receive Him as our Savior. Remember, the Holy Spirit is God; He lives in us and will never leave us. This is a great miracle that only God can do.

The disciples were afraid when they saw Jesus walking on the water to them because they thought He was a spirit (a ghost). Then He spoke to them and told them Who He was (26-27). He wanted them to know that it was He who was with them and not a ghost.

WE: We do not have to worry about ghosts or demons attacking us when we remember that He is with us in the person of the Holy Spirit. Whatever Jesus can do to protect us, the Holy Spirit also can do.

IV. Jesus Let Peter Walk on the Water - Matthew 14:28-29

When Peter asked Jesus for permission to go out to him on the water, Jesus said he could come to Him. That was a very brave request that Peter made, but he loved Jesus and wanted to be close to Him. He believed that Jesus would take care of him, so he stepped over the side of the ship and walked out to Jesus on the water!

WE: When we love Jesus we will want to get as close to Him as we can. He will allow it. He wants us close to Him. How close are you to Jesus? You can tell how close you are to Him by the time you talk to Him in prayer and by the time you spend listening to Him from the Bible. That is why we should memorize Bible verses and think about what He is saying to us in these verses. He is talking to us.

Jesus Saved Peter from Drowning - Matthew 14:30-32

When Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he walked on the water, but when a big wave came toward him that was stirred up by the wind, he saw it and became afraid. He looked at the wave instead of Jesus and doubted that he could stand against the wave. He lost his faith in Jesus to take care of him and he began to sink into the water. Immediately he cried out, Lord, save me. Jesus was right there with His mighty hand to catch him and keep him from drowning. Then Jesus rebuked him by saying, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? Peter walked with Jesus back to the ship and the wind stopped.

WE: We may have faith that Jesus will take care of us when everything is quite calm, but do we have faith in Him when we are in great danger? It is not easy to have faith in Jesus when we are in big trouble, but that is how our faith gets stronger. It is all right for you to call on the Lord Jesus when you are in trouble. He will be right there to save you from the danger (Jer. 33:3; Isa 41:10).

V. Jesus is Worshipped by His Disciples - Matthew 14:33

All of the disciples saw that Jesus gave Peter the power to walk on the water, They also saw when He caught Peter and kept him from drowning, Then when Jesus and Peter got into the ship, the wind suddenly stopped and the sea was calm. All these things deeply impressed the disciples and they worshipped Him. They were absolutely certain that Jesus was the Son of God.

WE: We should worship Jesus for all the things that He does to take care of us. It should be quite natural for us to worship Him, when we believe that He is the Son of God and did these things for us. Yes, He cares for us and will never leave us nor forsake us.

BE (for Action): Tell the children that Jesus' promise to be with them is only made to those who have received Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. He has not promised to be with those who have not done this. Ask the children to raise their hands if they wish to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Pray for them in class and deal with those that raised their hands after class.

Also ask the children who are saved to bow their heads and thank Jesus for being with them all of the time. You could have several children thank the Lord for His promise.