

12. Why did Peter ask Jesus to tell him to get out of the boat? What did he need to prove?
13. What does Peter say (v30)? How does Jesus respond (v31)?
14. What causes his faith to falter? Is Jesus criticizing Peter for doubting, or commending him for trying?
15. Jesus immediately reaches out and catches Peter. What does this teach us about God's response to faltering faith?
16. How would you describe the relationship between faith and fear in this passage? Can they coexist?
17. Where does Jesus end up at the end of the episode? What larger message might we take from that fact?
18. Jesus does not remove the storm immediately but joins his disciples in it. What theological point might Matthew be making?
19. The Old Testament often describes God as the one who rules over the sea (e.g., Psalm 77:19; Job 9:8; Isaiah 43:2). How does this background deepen our understanding of Jesus walking on the water?
20. Traditionally, in early Christian art and sermons, the Church was likened to a boat, comparable to Noah's Ark. How does this symbolism influence our understanding of this episode?
21. What do the disciples do at the conclusion of this scene (v33)? What do you think they understood by the title "Son of God"?
22. What "storms" commonly threaten Christians today? Which seem most dangerous to faith?
23. When are you most tempted to focus on the "wind" rather than on Christ?
24. Peter leaves the safety of the boat because Jesus calls him. When might faithful discipleship require us to leave what is comfortable or familiar?

Family Bible Study

8/9/2026



Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Questions to Wonder with Kids

In today's reading from Matthew, Jesus makes the disciples go out on a boat in the Sea of Galilee. Later he joins them...walking on the water!

- What's going on in this story? Where are the disciples? What is happening to them?
- Where is Jesus? What is he doing?
- What are the disciples afraid of? Was it the wind and waves, or something else?
- What do they do when they see Jesus? I wonder what they were thinking...what they were feeling...
- How would you respond if you saw someone walking on water?
- What does Peter ask Jesus to do? Why do you suppose he asked that? What happens?
- What happened when he stepped out of the boat? I wonder why that happened...
- What did Jesus do when he saw Peter go under?
- What did Peter do when he started to sink?
- Suppose you were talking to a friend who was having some trouble at school or at home or who was really sick, and they were feeling like they were drowning under all their fears. Thinking of this story, where would you tell them to look for Jesus?

Questions for Adults

1. Where are we in Matthew's Gospel? What happened just before this, that "immediately" (v22) preceded Jesus sending his disciples away? How are these two miracles connected?
2. What did Jesus do after the disciples left (v23)?
3. What happened to the disciples on their trip (v23-24)?

Background: Even though the Sea of Galilee is not a very large body of water, it often erupts into turmoil during storms, as winds rush through the valleys of the mountains that surround the sea. Jews were notorious "landlubbers," seeing all large bodies of water as the domain of chaotic, evil spirits. Hence Jesus "exorcizing" the sea in Matthew 8:23-27.

4. What might the storm that was battering the boat, literally "tormenting" it (v24) symbolize? What metaphorically might it mean that the waves were "against them"?
5. Then what do they see (v26)? When did this happen (v25)?
6. What did they think about what they were seeing? How did they respond (v26)?
7. Why do the disciples initially mistake Jesus for a ghost? What does this reveal about fear and perception?
8. What did Jesus say to calm them (v27)? Why are these words so significant? What do they reveal about Jesus' identity?
9. What lesson might you draw from this episode, concerning Jesus?
10. The episode is not over though! Peter, always the brash one, asks Jesus to invite him out of the boat. What precisely though does Peter say (v28)? What do you make his beginning with "if"? What does this suggest about Peter?
11. Jesus obliges Peter, and Peter gets out of the boat and walks on the water towards Jesus. Then what happens (v30)? Why?