

# Act It Out:

## Walking on Water

Students will re-enact the miracle of Peter walking to the Lord on the water. Use your creativity to set the scene, using sheets, blocks, carpets, tape, etc.

### *Supplies Needed*

- script (see next page)
- “boat” large enough for your entire class (who will all be disciples) to sit in—this could be a sizeable carpet on a large open floor, a sheet or towel in a natural color, an area of the floor marked off with tape, an area defined by large blocks, or a wagon or large tub the children can sit in
- white sheet to dress the Lord
- *optional*: fan to simulate the wind
- *optional*: simple disciple costumes — large sized shirts or T-shirts turned inside out to hide any pictures or text
- *optional*: large carpet or blue sheet to represent the Sea of Galilee

### *Preparation Needed Ahead of Time*

Set the scene for the play before the class arrives. Build your boat, set up the sea, line up costumes if you plan to use them. This will enable you to move smoothly from the discussion to the activity and so help keep the children’s interest.

### *Introduction*

Bring the children into the story by letting them know they will all be disciples. You may choose to be the Lord yourself, or you may choose a child to play the part of the Lord. Choose one of the children to be Peter. Help the students put on their costumes (if you are using them) and get them seated in the “boat”.

### *Activity*

Read the script, pausing while the children act out the parts. Replay the story if the children want to do it again, choosing a different student to be Peter each time.



# Script: Walking on Water

*This story takes place late at night, between 3 and 6 a.m. Simulate darkness by turning the lights down or off (depending on the natural lighting in the room).*

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side....

*Direct students to get into their "boat" and for some to "row" on each side. ["He saw them straining at rowing for the wind was against them..."] (Mark 6:48).]*

But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was blowing from the direction they wanted to go. *Turn on the fan, if you are using one, and point it toward the boat. Direct the children to rock back and forth in their boat, to show that it is being tossed by the waves. Direct them to row harder, trying to make headway against the wind.*

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

*The person portraying the Lord should walk towards the boat, stopping some distance away.*

And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!"

*Direct students to point at the Lord and say, "It's a ghost!"*

And they cried out for fear.

*Encourage the students to cry out. What might they have said? (Save us! Help! etc.)*

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

*Jesus looks at and gestures warmly towards the people in the boat.*

And Peter answered Him...

*Peter stands up in the boat.*

And said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

*Peter gestures towards the Lord.*

So He said, "Come."

*Jesus beckons to Peter.*

And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to Jesus looking at Him.

*Peter walks, steadying himself with his hands held out.*

But when he paid attention to the wind and waves...

*Encourage the disciples in the boat to rock back and forth. Peter should look around fearfully.*

he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

*Peter trembles, sinks to his knees and reaches out toward the Lord.*

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

*Jesus holds Peter's hands, and they look at each other.*

And when they got into the boat the wind ceased.

*Peter and Jesus get into the boat. Turn off the fan.*

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

*Everyone bows down to Jesus.*