

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 25
Walking on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)

Theme: The Lord Does a Miracle

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord alone can perform miracles. Nothing is impossible for the Lord!
- B. The Lord performed miracles for two reasons: to strengthen the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and for the sake of the Word.
- C. Each miracle is really a parable teaching us of some good work which the Lord can perform in our souls if we believe in Him and ask His help.
- D. The Lord is always present with us and watching over us.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. The Lord came on earth to show people how to be good. Sometimes He did miracles while He was on earth to show people that He really was the Lord. Do you remember what a miracle is? It is a wonderful thing that only the Lord can do.
- 2. Many of the Lord's miracles made sick people well again. Sometimes He made blind people see again or lame people able to walk. You may remember the wonderful miracle the Lord did when He came to see Jairus' daughter, who was dead; He brought her back to life again!
- 3. Today's lesson is about a miracle the Lord did for His disciples. The disciples were twelve men the Lord chose to follow Him and help Him teach the people.
- 4. One day the Lord stood on a mountain teaching many people. He taught five thousand people that day! Near the end of the day, the people were hungry. The only food was two fish and five loaves of bread. But the Lord did a miracle and made the fish and bread enough to feed all of those people. Then the people went home, and the Lord and His disciples came down off the mountain and stood by a lake. Now listen, and you will hear about another miracle the Lord did that day - one for His disciples!

B. Tell/Read the Story

Retell the story from Matthew 14:22-53. Use stick puppets of the Lord, Peter, and the boat to illustrate the story for the children. Or use flannel board and felt figures.

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. The disciples went into a boat to go to the other side of the lake. Why did the Lord stay behind on the mountain? (He wanted to pray.)
2. When Jesus wanted to join His disciples, how did He go to them? (He walked on the sea.)
3. Was it day or night when the Lord went to His disciples? (night)
4. Was the weather good for sailing in a boat? (No. It was windy, and the waves were big.)
5. What did Peter ask the Lord? (Peter asked if he could walk on the water too.)
6. Was Peter able to walk on the water at first? (yes)
7. Why did Peter start to sink into the water? (He was afraid of the wind.)
8. What did the Lord do? (He stretched out His hand and caught Peter.)
9. What surprising thing happened as soon as Jesus and Peter got into the boat? (The wind stopped blowing.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Why did the Lord do this miracle for His disciples? He wanted to show them that nothing is impossible for the Lord. First, He walked on the water. Then He let one of the disciples, Peter, walk on the water. And then He calmed the stormy night. This helped His disciples believe in Him.
2. Do you know why Peter started to sink in the water? He forgot that the Lord was taking care of him. Peter worried about the wind and the waves. Peter started to sink, but Jesus stretched out His hand and saved him!
3. Are you afraid sometimes? Maybe you are afraid of the dark or of getting lost. The Lord can help you when you are afraid. Remember that the Lord is always watching over you, keeping you safe. If you think about the Lord, He will help you to be brave and not afraid.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Oh, who can make a flower?" *First Songs*, p. 23.
2. "Father in heaven," *Hymnal* #152.

B. Activities

When the children finish the project, summarize the story while they act it out using their pictures.

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C. Project: The Lord and Peter Walk on the Water

1. **Before class:** For each child, prepare a 9x12 piece of dark construction paper (because it was night) by stapling a strip of blue, wavy water across the bottom of the page, attaching it only at the sides. (The strip should be 12" wide by about 3 1/2" high.) Cut out figure of Peter about 4" tall from yellow or white paper (see enclosed patterns).
2. **In class:** Give the prepared sheets to the children. Have them draw the Lord at one side of the page with bright oil pastels such as white and yellow. He should be walking on the water. On the other side of the page, have the children draw a simple boat. They may want to draw several heads peeking out of the boat to indicate the disciples.
3. Then have the children color the Peter figure, giving him a face and clothing. Attach Peter to a popsicle stick with tape.
4. Now each child can retell the story with his puppet and picture.

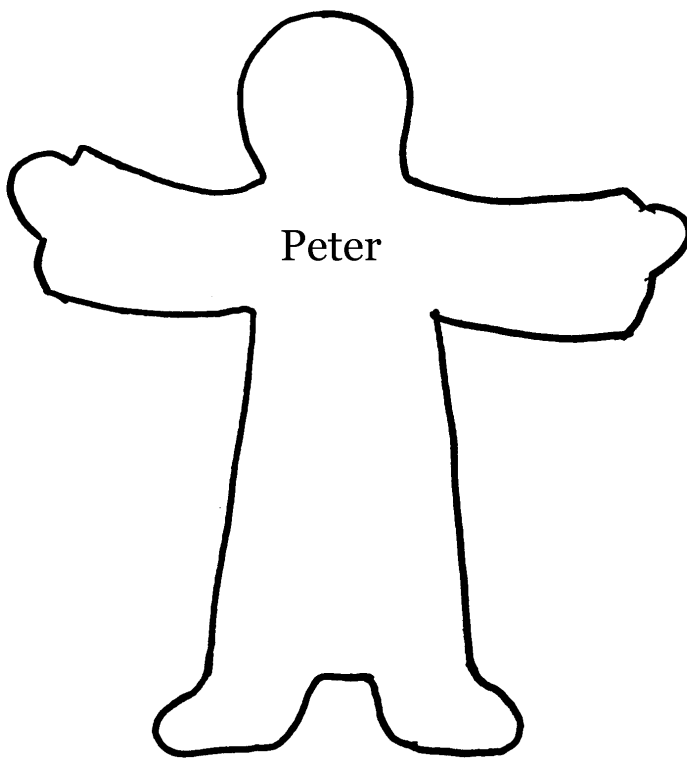
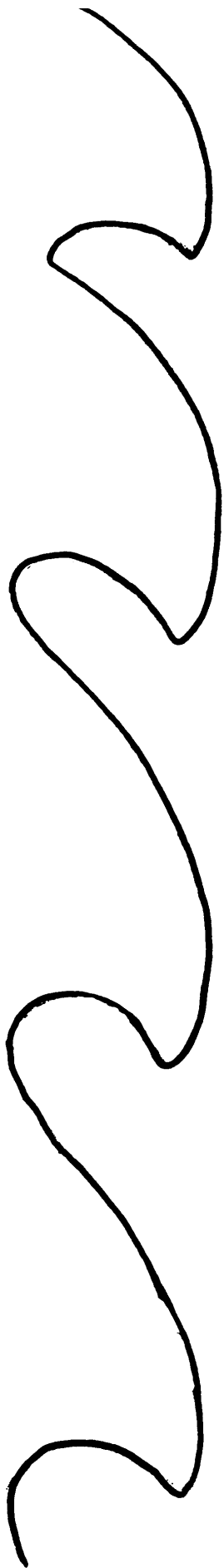
IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of the Lord:
 1. Talking to people
 2. Feeding the five thousand
 3. With His disciples
 4. Walking on the water
- B. Stick puppets of Jesus, Peter, and the boat
- C. Flannel board with felt figures

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *The Sower*, Vol. IV, Mat. 14:22-36.
- B. *Dole's Bible Study Notes*. Do not discuss this story.

Jesus Walks on the Water



dark blue construction paper