



THE  
**KING**  
OF  
**KINGS**

**MIRACLES  
OF JESUS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
SESSION #5**

**JESUS WALKS  
ON WATER**

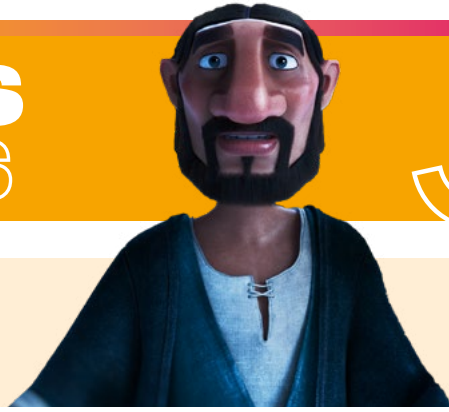
**JESUS' POWER  
...OVER NATURE**



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## SESSION #5

### JESUS WALKS ON WATER

MATTHEW 14:22–36,  
MARK 6:45–52, JOHN 6:16–21

## ICEBREAKER

### SIMON SAYS

Play a round of Simon Says. Tell the kids that in today's story, Peter is going to try and copy what Jesus is doing too... but in the most amazing circumstances!

*The King of Kings* is very faithful to Scripture, sometimes incorporating details from multiple gospels in its retelling of different events and miracles. Make sure the children know that just because some things in the clip might be slightly different than the passage, it doesn't necessarily mean they 'did it wrong'. Rather, each gospel gives us different details about the same events—just like fans seeing different angles of the same goal in a football match—and *The King of Kings* wanted to incorporate many of these details. If you have a mature group, you could read from multiple accounts, as listed in the key scriptures section above.

### MATTHEW 14:22–36

*Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.*

*Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' 'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' he said.*

*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?' And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'*

## READ

## WATCH

Watch the clip of *The King of Kings* and see if you notice any differences from what we read. (Remember, some of these differences are because the gospel writers give different details.) If you have a very keen group, you can hand out papers for the children to make notes on what they notice in the clip.

## IMAGINE

You can use the following script, or read the Scripture again, inviting the children to imagine what they see, feel, smell and hear throughout. Read slowly, pausing after each question to allow the kids to imagine themselves in the scene. The imagining can be done in quiet, or you can take responses as you go. →



## IMAGINE CONT.

If you have children for whom sitting still is challenging, consider handing out a fidget toy or having them draw the scene while you read the following lines:

“ Now I want you to imagine that you are there, just like the little boy Walter imagines himself watching Jesus do this miracle. Jesus can use our imagination to help us understand the story better. So let’s pray, Holy Spirit, please help us to really see what it was like to be there with you. Now everyone, close your eyes, fold your hands in your lap and take a deep breath...

*It’s late at night and you are out on the Sea of Galilee on a small fishing boat, feeling very tired. It’s very windy, and the waves rock the boat back and forth wildly—how does your face feel? Where are you sitting on the boat, or are you helping the other disciples sail? What sounds do you hear, and what do you feel as the boat climbs to the top of a wave, then plunges down, and as the sails whip back and forth?*

*It’s almost dawn, and there’s a little light in the sky, and your whole body feels exhausted. Suddenly one of the disciples points out across the water, what do they say? How do they sound? You peer into the dark across the waves... what do you see? Your heart skips a beat with fear and amazement—it’s a person standing out on the water and walking toward you! As you look again, you recognise who it is... it’s Jesus! What does Jesus look like as he walks among the waves? How do you feel now?*

*One of the disciples is shouting to Jesus—it’s Peter. What does he look like? What does he shout? Can you make out Jesus’ reply? Even though the boat is tossing in the wind and waves, Peter is climbing out into the dangerous water. Do you say anything to him, or just watch? As you look on, it feels like a dream because now Peter is also standing upright among the waves, walking on top of the water. What do his steps look like? How close is he to Jesus? But suddenly, you see Peter sink! What do you do, what does Jesus do?*

*Jesus helps Peter up and they both come over to the boat. How do they look? How do they get back in? What does Jesus say to the disciples when he sits down... what does he turn and say to you?*

What did everyone imagine? Have a time of open sharing where the children describe what they imagined. Be sure to highlight whether this time of imagining gave them any insights or new ideas about the Bible story.

### DISCUSSION QUESTION:

**Why do you think Peter asks to get out of the boat and come to Jesus?**

The miracle of Jesus walking on water might remind us of a miracle that happened earlier, when he calms the storm! But one big difference between these stories is what Peter does. Maybe he remembers how Jesus calmed the storm before, and when he sees Jesus walking on the waves now, his heart trusts that Jesus is in control of this storm as well. He believes that Jesus has God’s →

## DISCUSSION



## DISCUSSION CONT.

power over nature! So Peter knows that if Jesus is in control, he doesn't need to be afraid of the wind and waves, and if Jesus commands, Peter will be able to walk on the water too!

When we think of all the amazing things we've read about Jesus doing, and all we have seen Jesus do in our own lives, are our hearts also filled with faith, like Peter? If Jesus commanded us, would we also be willing to step out of the boat and onto the water? Remember, when Peter starts to sink, it's not because Jesus loses power, it's because Peter starts to doubt. If we also keep our eyes and our trust on Jesus, who knows what great things God might do through us!

## HEADS OR TAILS

For this quiz, put your hands on your head if you think the answer to the question is true, and your hands on your bottom if you think the answer is false.

**True or False:** At the start of the story, Jesus and the disciples were sailing on the Mediterranean Sea.

*False. Only the disciples are sailing across the sea of Galilee*

**True or False:** Jesus and the disciples were sailing through the night until dawn.  
*True.*

**True or False:** Jesus stayed behind to keep teaching and healing people.  
*False. Jesus stayed behind to spend time alone praying.*

**True or False:** When Jesus came near the boat he said, 'It's me, don't be afraid.'  
*True.*

**True or False:** Peter immediately jumped out of the boat and went to Jesus.  
*False. Peter asked for Jesus' command to come out on the water.*

**True or False:** Peter started to sink because the wind blew him over.  
*False. Peter became afraid and started to doubt, then he sank.*

**True or False:** As Peter sank, he shouted, 'Lord, Save me!'  
*True. →*

## QUIZ



## CRAFT

### PAPER BOATS

Teach the children how to fold a paper boat. It is a good idea to practice folding one yourself ahead of time so that you are the boat-folding expert!

If you want to keep the craft simple, the kids can decorate their folded boats and try floating them at home. Using tape or wax crayons on the base can help make them a little water-resistant.

If you'd like to do more...

**Option 1:** Fill a tub or bucket with water and let the kids float their boats! As a group, find out which one is the strongest by placing pennies, one at a time, into the folds of the boat and see how long they stay afloat.

**Option 2:** Gather blue, grey and green crayons with their papers removed, a hairdryer, tape and a large cardboard box. Stand the box on its side so the open part faces you—this will help keep the activity clean. Inside the box near the bottom, secure the folded boats to the box with a small bit of tape. They should be laying flat on their sides in a row. Directly beneath the boats, tape a row of crayons, along the bottom edge of the box. Using a hairdryer on a high heat setting, melt the crayons so the wax melts away from you (towards the back of the box) and creates a wave-like effect across the boats. The wax will melt quickly if the heat is applied closely and will dry just as fast. If you have time, you can repeat the process on the other side—just flip the boats over, tape them back down, and secure more crayons to achieve the effect (broken pieces work fine).

## PRAYER

*Jesus, please help me to trust you like Peter did, knowing that you are in control of everything. Even when things seem scary, or chaotic or difficult, help me to keep my eyes on you, because you have power over the wind and waves, and you have the power to save us. Thank you Jesus, Amen.*



**UP NEXT...**

**SESSION #6: JESUS RAISES LAZARUS**