

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FOR

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Jesus Walks on Water

Last week, we heard how Jesus fed 5,000 men plus their wives and children with just 5 loaves and 3 fishes - and still have plenty left over for the next day. No-one could explain how He had managed to do - it was a Miracle!

This week we continue the story with what happened later that evening, after the Big Picnic.

#### Getting Started

You will need a washing up bowl, a bucket or a sink and some water. You will also need to collect various objects from around the house. Don't worry if you don't have all of these - as long as you have more than 8 it will be fine.

**\*\* Please don't use anything which could be damaged by water. \*\***

An apple, a small ball, a bath toy, a bottle top, a plastic dice, a key, a leaf, a piece of Lego, a marble, an orange, a ruler, a pair of scissors, a shell, a sponge, a stick, a stone, a teaspoon, a toothbrush  
*(remember where you find everything so you can put them all back in the right places afterwards ☺)*

Choose one of the items. Do you think this will float or sink when you put it in the water? Place it carefully in the water and see what happens. Were you right?

Choose another object. Again, think whether it will sink to the bottom or float on the top. Carefully put it in the water. What happens? Is it what you expected?

Do the same with all the objects (you may have to take some out if you start running out of space!)

Did you get them all right? Or did some surprise you? If you were playing with someone else, did they think the same as you?

Do you think that we (people) sink or float? Generally, we float but only when we are lying down. If we are upright, we need to 'tread water' or we will sink. Jesus however was able to walk on the top of the water! How awesome is that?!



#### The Story

When the enormous picnic was over, Jesus sent the disciples ahead of Him, back across the lake. Then, as night fell, He climbed the hill overlooking the lake, to be alone with God His Father.

Meanwhile, the disciples were struggling desperately against a strong wind. However hard they rowed, they made no progress through the water.

From the top of the hill, Jesus could see the little boat and picture His exhausted disciples. He decided that He would go to them.

But when the disciples saw a mysterious shadowy figure coming towards them across the lake in the moonlight, they were terrified.

"It's a ghost!" they shrieked. Their tired nerves could stand no more.

Then a familiar voice rang out.

"Don't be frightened! I'm coming to help you!"

They could not believe it.

"If it is really you," Peter called back, "Tell me to come to you."

"All right, Peter," Jesus answered, "Come on!"

Peter climbed over the side of the boat and began to walk towards Jesus on top of the water. Suddenly he felt a strong gust of wind catch him and he looked down at the swirling waves. In that moment of panic he began to sink.

"Help! Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus put out his hand quickly, caught Peter by the wrist and pulled him up from the foaming water.



"Why did you doubt me, Peter?" he asked.

Then the two of them climbed into the boat. Immediately the wind died down. The disciples were amazed. They could not understand how their master was able to do the impossible.

You can also watch a film of the story using this link ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2t3-S6eSUU>

This link is for another film ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG6I4fkB6wE> ... maybe this is more suitable for KS2 children.

### Thinking About It

Although it is called "Jesus Walks on Water" - which is a miracle! - most people focus on the part when Peter walked on the water.

Jesus said that Peter's faith was small and that's why he started to sink. Others believe that he was doing OK while he was looking at Jesus but when he was distracted by the wind and the waves and looked away, he took his eyes off Jesus and that's when the trouble started.

However, let's remember that Peter was the only one of the disciples prepared to get out of the boat, in a storm with the waves crashed around him! Also, he knew the right person to call out to when he began to sink - he asked Jesus to save him. So maybe his faith was much larger than we first thought.

I doubt (really hope) that none of us will need to step out of a boat into the crashing waves during a storm. But when we are having a hard time, we can always call out to Jesus. We can ask Him to give us strength to cope with the difficult times. We can ask Him to remind us that He is always there when we think we are alone. Sometimes we need to keep looking towards Jesus and not to be distracted by other things happening around us.

### Activity

Find an A4 sized piece of piece paper - it can be plain white or coloured.

Then follow these picture instructions to make yourself a little paper boat.

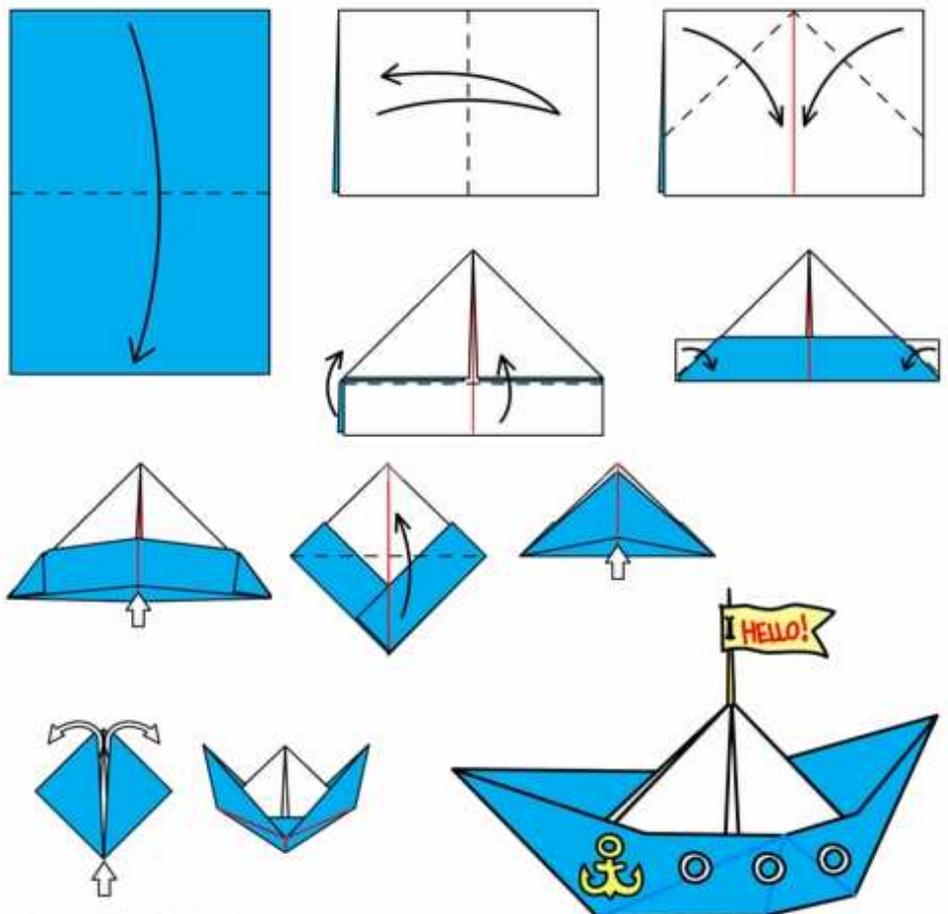
Does it float on water?

There are lots of different designs of origami boats online.

Here is a link to an easier boat ... <http://www.supercoloring.com/paper-crafts/origami-little-boat-instructions>

Here is a link to a more difficult one, if you want a challenge ... <http://www.origamicenter.ir/en/fun/87-trick.html>

Please send us a photo of your little boats ☺



### Prayer

Dear God,

When we are afraid, please remind us to put our trust in You. Please help us to remember that You will take care of us and give us courage and strength to cope.

Amen.