

Bible Background

Matthew 14: 22-33

Walking by faith isn't easy, especially if it means walking on water! In today's Bible story, Jesus had just finished feeding more than five thousand people. As the crowd began to disperse, Jesus instructed his disciples to go on ahead to the other side of the lake.

The disciples followed Jesus' instructions. The Bible says that Jesus went up on a mountain to pray. Evening came, and soon the disciples found themselves fighting a mighty headwind. By morning, they were far from land, but then something totally surprising happened—the disciples saw the figure of a man coming toward them, walking on the lake. "It's a ghost!" someone exclaimed. Then Jesus made himself known: "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's really you," Peter said, "let me walk out to you on the lake." Jesus invited Peter to come. Peter took a few steps onto the surface of the water, but when he looked at the wind and waves, he began to sink. He called out to Jesus, "Save me!" Jesus reached out and grabbed him and said, "You of weak faith! Why did you doubt?"

It is easy to read Jesus' words as a stern rebuke. Perhaps they were, but maybe not. Reread Jesus' words and imagine those words being given with a smile and a wink. Even a little faith is better than none. Jesus said that we could move mountains with faith the size of a mustard seed. It's not the amount of faith we have that makes the difference. Rather, it's who we put our faith in. People put their faith in lots of things every day. We place our faith in how much money we have in the bank. We place our faith in how our interpersonal relationships are going. We place our faith in vehicles to get us from point A to point B each day. There's nothing wrong with putting faith in these things, but sometimes we fail to examine where we are placing our faith.

Peter was challenged to examine where he put his faith. In that moment, he chose to place his faith in Jesus. Because he did, it allowed him to do the impossible: to walk on water. We may not see large-scale miracles occur often, but in little ways every day, we can see how faith in Jesus gives us protection against all the things that make us afraid. Faith shields our hearts. Like the disciples, we can hear Jesus say, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."



Bible Story

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22-33

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Faith!

Additional Bible Reading

📖 Hebrews 11

📖 Matthew 17:20

📖 Teacher Tip

This Bible Background feature is a supplemental aid provided for you, the leader, to give context for each session's story before you teach on it. You may share this information with your Knights if desired, but it is not a recommended portion of the intended lesson.