

Today's Reading: Mark 6:45-52

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Simple Summary (for Parents):

Jesus's walking on the sea is one of the more memorable miracles in all of Scripture. However, this was not merely a random display of power. In the Old Testament, the sea is pictured as chaotic and threatening; only God can tame it (see Job 9:8; Psalm 107:23-32). Therefore, by walking on the sea, Jesus showed Himself to be God, the God who had revealed Himself to Israel, now come in the flesh. (Note: when Jesus says "It is I" in verse 50, this is the same expression used in the Old Testament when the Lord reveals His name as "I Am" in Exodus 3:14.) When we see Jesus for who He is, it should lead us to trust Him in every circumstance. Unfortunately, the disciples' hearts were still "hardened" at this point, so they did not yet fully grasp who Jesus was. He had to remind them not to be afraid.¹

Discuss:**1. Have you ever tried to walk on water? If not, what do you think would happen if you did?**

(You would sink immediately, of course. Now imagine trying that in the midst of a turbulent sea!)

2. How would you have reacted if you would have seen Jesus walking toward you on the sea?

(Urge your kids to give an honest answer.)

3. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach His disciples in this story?

(Help your kids see that this was not just a trick Jesus was performing. He was showing them that He, as the Son of God, had the very power and authority of God—even over the sea!)



¹ To see how this passage identifies Jesus with Yahweh, the one true God identified in the Old Testament, see the notes in the *ESV Study Bible* for this passage.

4. Some people say that Jesus was simply a good man. How does this story teach us that Jesus was more than that?

(Only God can tame the sea and walk on it. Therefore, even though Jesus was a man, He was at the same time fully God.)

5. The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost, and they were afraid. How should this story help us not to be afraid if we believe in Jesus?

(Those who trust in Jesus never need to be afraid because He rules over everything in the world. If He can tame the sea, then we can trust Him to take care of us in every situation.)

Pray:

Praise Jesus that He is all-powerful and that He is stronger than the sea. Ask Him to help you to trust Him when you are afraid.

Sing:

[“A Mighty Fortress”](#) (See Week 2 Song Sheet for lyrics)