

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

At that time, Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and to cross the sea. When He finished teaching the crowds, He went up a hill by himself, to pray.

When it was getting dark, the boat was in the middle of the sea. It was getting beaten by waves because the wind was strong. When it was night, Jesus came to the boat. He was walking on the top of the sea. The disciples said, "It is a ghost!" Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, it is I."

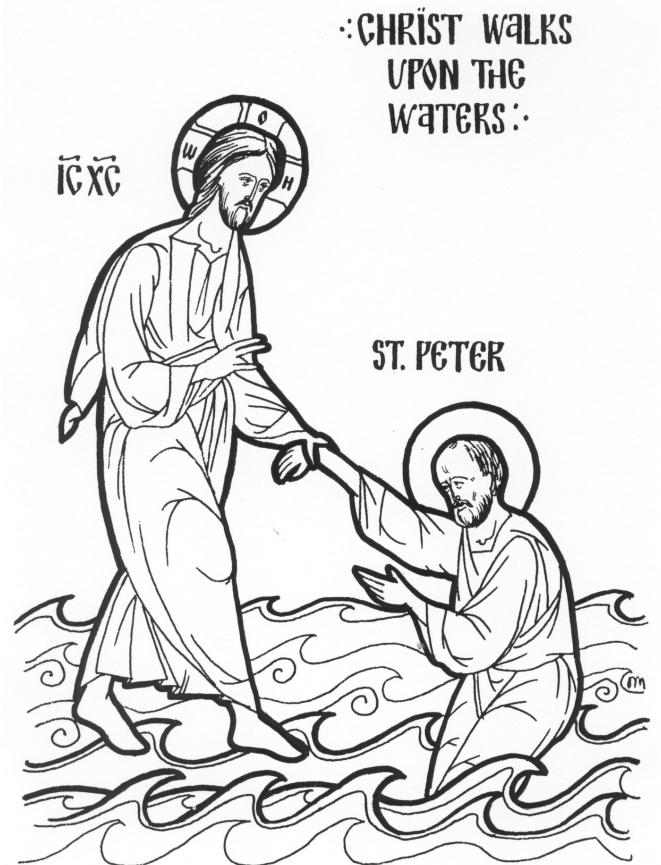
Peter said, "Lord, if it is you, ask me to walk on the water to meet you."

Jesus said, "Come."

So Peter began to walk on the water. When the wind became strong, he was afraid and cried,

"Lord, save me." Jesus reached out his hand and saved him. When they reached the boat, the wind and sea became quiet.

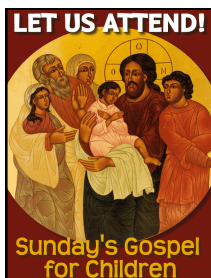
The disciples knew that only God could command the sea and the wind. They worshipped Jesus and said, "Truly You are the Son of God."



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. The disciples were in a boat on the sea. Jesus was praying on the hillside.
2. When it became night, was the sea calm or stormy?
3. The disciples were afraid. Then they saw Jesus. What was Jesus doing?
4. In the icon, draw a circle around Peter.
5. What is Jesus doing? How did Peter get to Jesus?
6. When Jesus came into the boat, the storm stopped.



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CHRIST WALKS UPON THE WATERS



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CROSSING THE SEA

One evening, our Lord Jesus Christ had his disciples get into a boat and go to the other side of the sea. While they went, He sent away the crowd that had come. Then, He went up into the hills, to pray.

While He was praying alone, the wind came up against the boat and waves beat against it. Very late at night, Jesus came to His disciples. He was walking on the sea! When the disciples saw that, they were very afraid. They thought He was a ghost. They screamed because they were afraid.

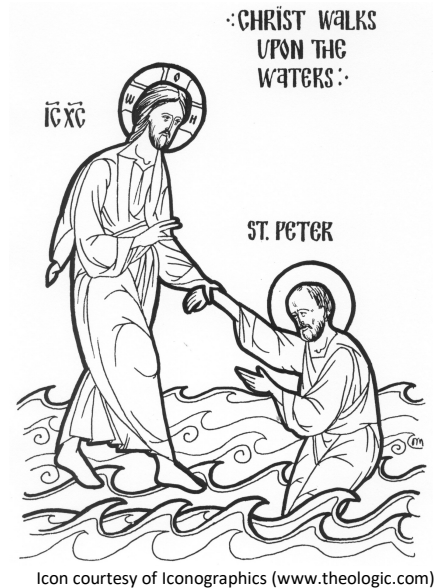
Jesus spoke to them, "Relax! It is I! Don't be afraid!"

As He heard this, Peter said, "Lord, if it is really you, call me to come to You on the water!"

Jesus said, "Come!" So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water and came to Jesus! But then he saw the wind and was afraid. He began to sink.

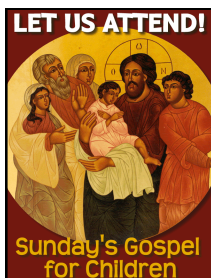
As he began to sink, Peter said, "Lord, save me!" Jesus reached out, grabbed Peter's hand, and asked him why he doubted.

Peter and Jesus got into the boat. When they did, the wind became calm. Everyone in the boat worshiped Jesus, saying, "You must be the Son of God!"



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. At the beginning of this Gospel story, what did Jesus have the disciples do? Where did Jesus go?
2. When it became night, was the sea calm or stormy? How do you know?
3. The disciples were afraid when they saw Jesus. What was Jesus doing?
4. When Jesus came into the boat, the storm stopped. If you were a disciple in the boat, how would you feel then?
5. Have you ever felt scared when it is stormy? The next time it happens, you can pray, sit by an icon, and make the sign of the cross. Jesus will help you not to be afraid. Jesus is always with us.



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At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray.

When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat was in the middle of the sea, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against it. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them, walking on the sea.

But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a spirit!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the mighty wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind became calm. And



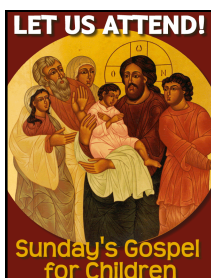
Image courtesy of sxc.hu

those in the boat came and worshipped Jesus, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do immediately?
2. What does He do after He dismisses the crowds?
3. Why do you think Jesus worked so hard to be alone and pray? Do you think it helped Him to be ready for what happened next?
4. What does this say about praying?
5. Ask your godparents what they do so that they can pray each day.
6. Prayer can help us be ready for what happens in our lives. What can you do this week to make time to pray?



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JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Characters: Narrator, Disciples, Jesus, Peter

Narrator: At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray.

When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat was in the middle of the sea, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against it. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them, walking on the sea.

But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying,

Disciples: It is a spirit!

Narrator: And they cried out for fear. But immediately, Jesus spoke to them, saying,

Jesus: Take heart, it is I; have no fear.

Narrator: And Peter answered him,

Peter: Lord, if it is You, bid me come to you on the water.

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: Come.

Narrator: So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the mighty wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out,

Peter: Lord, save me.

Narrator: Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him,

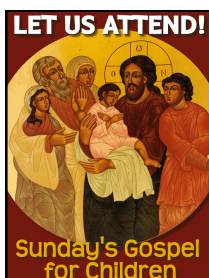
Jesus: O man of little faith, why did you doubt?

Narrator: And when they got into the boat, the wind became calm. And those in the boat came and worshipped Jesus, saying,

Disciples: Truly You are the Son of God.



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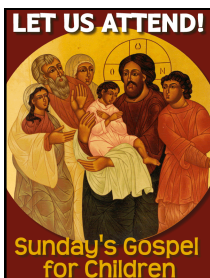
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boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the mighty wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind became calm. And those in the boat came and worshipped Jesus, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennes'aret.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why does Jesus send the disciples ahead?
2. What does he do after he dismisses the crowds?
3. Why would he work so hard to make time to pray?
4. What does this tell us about prayer?
5. Do you think we need to pray? Why or why not?
6. Ask someone at church question number five. How do they respond? What do you think about their response?



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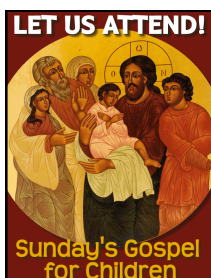


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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why does Jesus send the disciples ahead?
2. What does he do after he sends them ahead?
3. When does Jesus pray?
4. What does Jesus dismissing the crowds before he takes time for himself suggest about helping others?
5. What does his effort to make time and space to pray suggest about prayer?
6. Do you think we need to pray in order to serve others? Why or why not?
7. What can you do this week to make time and space to pray?



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