

LESSON 2

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee stretched as far as eight miles wide and thirteen miles long. The feeding of the 5,000 took place on the shores of the Sea of Galilee near Bethsaida (Mk 6:33-39). After the miraculous event, Jesus told His disciples to first travel to the western side of the sea. On land, it may have been as far as fifteen miles from Bethsaida to Gennesaret. Traveling by boat was a lot faster, but it still would have taken a number of hours, hence why the disciples were still in the boat in the middle of the night. They were also hampered by the raging storm.

The Fourth Watch

According to Roman calculations, the night was divided into four watches. The first watch occurred from 6:00 to 9:00 PM; the second from 9:00 to midnight; the third from midnight to 3:00 AM; and the fourth watch, mentioned in Matthew 14:25, was from 3:00 to 6:00 AM. In contrast, the Jews only had three watches during the night. The first watch took place from sunset to 10:00 PM, the second from 10:00 PM to 2:00 AM, and the last from 2:00 AM to sunrise (Judg 7:19; 1 Sam 11:11).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

"I'll believe it when you show me." This is not an uncommon phrase to hear. Unless there is great trust involved, it is hard to just "take someone's word for it." Doubt is a weakness everyone deals with. However, your students are at an age where they are still fairly innocent and will usually believe what others say. That is why it is not a good idea to abuse their trust in you at any time. They look to their teacher as the person who has all the right answers.

Because of their innocence at this age, now is a good time to develop their faith in God. They know that they can pray to God for anything and that He will keep all of His promises. Ask your students what they usually do when they become sick. Do they pray to God and ask Him to make them well? Remind them that God will grant them their requests if they believe with all their heart. In Matthew 17:20-21, Jesus said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." This is all that is required—faith as small as a mustard seed. God made the heavens and the earth. For Him, curing a cold would be easy to do. The question is, do your students truly believe it, even though they cannot see the final result? Encourage them to believe wholeheartedly and without doubt. God can do all things. All they need to do is trust Him with a simple but sincere faith.

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 14:24-36;
Mark 6:33-52

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is almighty and has the power to perform miracles because He is God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize that Jesus is almighty and that He has the power to perform miracles because He is God.
2. To teach students that they should have faith in God without doubt.

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus said to him, 'All things are possible to him who believes.'"

(Mark 9:23)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving us peace and rest this past week. Sometimes we encounter difficulties that are hard to overcome, but You always give us the strength we need to go on. You are the almighty God and everything is possible with You. We have come here today to worship You and learn Your precious words. Please teach us to have faith in You and to trust in You at all times. All glory to God. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

compassion: feeling love for others and wanting to help them; caring for someone

faith: being sure about and hoping for something that you cannot see or that has not happened yet (Heb 11:1)

doubt: being unsure about something so that you feel like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind (Jas 1:6)

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about Jesus. Although He was born through Mary, He was the Son of God. He came to earth to save us from our sins. He preached the word of God and helped many people. How did He help them? (He healed the sick and fed the hungry.) Even though He was God, He was also a friend to ordinary people like you and me. He had compassion on people, and everyone knew that they could turn to Him in times of need. Jesus was a loving God who also had other titles. Sometimes, He was called the Messiah, Christ, or Lord. What other titles did Jesus have? (Son of Man, Son of God, Teacher, Master, Savior.) All of these titles point to the same gospel message: Jesus is our Savior from heaven, and only He can give us eternal life.

The Lord Jesus not only gives us eternal life, He also helps us every day in our lives on earth. Today, we will learn about two miracles that Jesus performed that show that He has compassion on us and that we should have faith in Him and not doubt.

BIBLE STORY

[Preparation: Prepare a prop that represents the boat the disciples were on. You may want to use a soft object that the students can toss or roll to others without hurting them. You may also choose to make an origami paper boat. Have the students sit in a circle facing you, and then begin to tell the story.]

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

When Jesus preached, many people followed Him wherever He went. As He taught them the words of God, He also helped those in need by doing things such as curing the sick. There was always a large crowd that surrounded Him.

One day, Jesus had gone to a deserted place by Himself. This means that there was no one else around. But many people heard about where He had gone, so they followed Him by walking from the cities to where He was. Jesus had great compassion on them and taught them. When night was coming, His disciples said, "This place is deserted, and it's getting late. Send the people away so that they can go to the villages to buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

Boys and girls, how many of you have been out on a picnic or gone camping? How much food do you have to bring with you so that you can have enough to eat and not be hungry? [Let students respond.] When we have fellowship lunch on Sabbath and you stand in line to get food, how much food is usually there? (A lot!) Normally

we have ____ [number] church members during Sabbath service, so we have to prepare food for that many people. Now, when the Lord Jesus told the disciples to give the people something to eat while they were outdoors in a deserted place, it was not an easy task. Guess how many people were there? (5,000, not including women and children.) So, the disciples had their doubts.

The disciples answered, "Should we go buy bread for the people?"

"No, go see how many loaves you have," Jesus replied.

The disciples checked and answered, "There are only five loaves of bread and two fish."

But Jesus cared for the people and did not want them to go home hungry. So, He asked His disciples to bring the food to Him, and He told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to His disciples to pass out to all the people. Then, He divided the fish among the people. Amazingly, everyone was fed and there were even twelve baskets of food left over. This was a great miracle performed by Jesus.

The Disciples Leave First

Right after everyone was fed, Jesus asked His disciples to go ahead first to the next place they were visiting. At that time, the crowd had gathered at the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Therefore, the disciples had to travel by boat in

order to get to the other side. They obeyed Jesus and went first. Meanwhile, Jesus stayed to send people away and to say goodbye to them.

Afterwards, He went up to a mountain by Himself to pray. It was getting late and He was alone.

A Big Storm

By now, the disciples were already very far away from the shore. It was dark because it was the middle of the night. As the disciples reached the middle of the lake [walk to the middle of the circle as you tell this part], the wind got much stronger. The wind blew so hard that the waves splashed against the sides of the boat and rocked it back and forth. The disciples rowed as hard and as fast as they could, but it only got worse. They became scared.

[Take out the “boat” that you prepared before class. Instruct the students to share one thing they’re afraid of as they toss/roll the “boat” to one another. Remind the students to toss/roll to those who haven’t had a turn. After everyone has had a turn, ask the students to toss/roll it back to you.]

Jesus Walks on Water

Suddenly, as the boat rocked in the waves, the disciples saw someone walking towards them on the water! Now, they weren’t only scared, they were terrified.

“It’s a ghost!” they exclaimed in panic. But it wasn’t a ghost. It was Jesus. He had come to find them after praying.

“It is I. Do not be afraid,” Jesus replied. Then Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, said, “Lord, if it is really You, tell me to come to You on the water.”

Jesus answered, “Come.”

Then Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on

the water towards Jesus. All this time, his eyes were focused on his teacher and it was the only thing on his mind. But then the wind got stronger again and Peter became scared. He didn’t look at Jesus anymore and only noticed how hard the wind was blowing. As he lost his concentration, he began to sink.

“Lord, save me!” Peter cried out. Immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and caught him before he sank into the water, saying to Peter, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” But Peter did not have an answer.

The Son of God

When Jesus and Peter finally climbed into the boat, the wind died down. The rest of the disciples had witnessed another miracle! Earlier in the day, they saw Jesus feed five thousand people and now they had just seen Him walk on water. They worshipped Jesus and said to Him, “You really are the Son of God.”

Boys and girls, why do you think they finally realized that Jesus is the Son of God? (Jesus walked on water and helped them when they were afraid.) Although the disciples were afraid during the storm, Jesus came to them. When Peter was afraid that he would sink, he cried out to the Lord to save him, and He did! [Now play the toss/roll game again and have each student share one reason why they believe that Jesus is really God.]

Not long after the wind stopped blowing, the boat reached the other side of the Sea of Galilee at Gennesaret. As Jesus and His disciples got out of the boat, some of the people of Gennesaret recognized Him. They spread the news that Jesus was in town and everyone in the area brought sick people to Jesus. They begged Jesus to let them just touch His clothes, and when they did, they were healed.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Questions to Think About

1. **Why did Peter ask Jesus to help him walk on water?** Because he was filled with fear and knew that only Jesus could help him walk on water.
2. **What happened to Peter when he began to doubt?** He began to sink.
3. **Why did Peter doubt even though he had seen many great miracles performed by Jesus?** He had very little faith.
4. **How can we keep our faith and believe without doubting Jesus?** Pray to God to increase our faith.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“Jesus said to him, ‘All things are possible to him who believes.’” (Mark 9:23)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Jesus is almighty and has the power to perform miracles because He is God.

Who are some of your favorite fictional superheroes? Why do you like them? What are some of their superpowers? [Let students share.]

The miracles in the Bible story we learned today are things that happened in real life a long time ago, when the Lord Jesus was on earth. The miracles of feeding 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish and of walking on water are not just superpowers from a fairy tale or cartoon. Maybe in a few years, people will forget your favorite superhero. But Jesus' stories have been told for thousands of years. He lives on forever through the lives of every generation. The Lord Jesus performed these miracles to prove to everyone that He is the true God so that they could believe in Him.

Today, our Lord Jesus is still here with us, proving to us that He is God. When He was still on earth, He had compassion on the people, so He healed them and gave them food to eat. He wanted to strengthen Peter's and the disciples' faith, so He walked on water. What about now? What is Jesus doing for us today? Even though He's no longer on earth, it doesn't mean that He cannot work miracles in our lives. In Matthew 17:20, Jesus tells us, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." This Bible verse is not telling us to test God by asking the mountain to move. Instead, it is teaching us that our faith can move God to work miracles in our lives. All we have to do is to believe that everything is possible with God. According to God's will, whatever we ask will be given to us. Let me share two testimonies with you. The first is a testimony about how God miraculously healed a sister in our church. The second testimony is about how one of our church members experienced Jesus in prayer.

1. In February 1983, I found that my hand was little swollen. At first, I thought that doing yard work caused this swelling; unfortunately, that was not the reason. I received treatment from different doctors who specialized in bone diseases, but the treatments were to no avail. One night after a treatment, I heard the voice of God in my sleep. He said, "Your hand will be healed." When I heard this message from God, I was greatly comforted and decided to stop seeking treatment from the doctors. However, the swelling did not subside; instead, it worsened. I continued to pray to the Lord for His mercy and also examined myself repeatedly for anything I may have done wrong. The swelling still did not subside.

In the meantime, someone told me that my old disease must have been recurring. After I heard this, I became very sad and began to worry about who would be able to care for my two children in the future. I called my sister, who comforted me by saying, "Don't worry, our lives are in the Lord's hands." She reminded me of the story of King Hezekiah. He asked God for a longer life, and God extended his life by 15 years. She also said that our children are valuable possessions given to us by our Lord, and that before we finish our duty of raising them, the Lord will have mercy on us.

I continued praying day and night. One time, when I felt especially sad in my heart, the Lord's voice came to me again and said, "Your hand will be healed." I was greatly comforted and decided to rely on God completely and to stop worrying about my hand anymore. I thought only of how to repay the Lord's love by working harder for Him while I was still alive. Sometimes, my hand swelled quite uncomfortably, and I would pray to the Lord. Miraculously, after I prayed, the swelling would slowly subside. In November of the same year, one of my classmates suggested that I wear a glove to prevent my hand from swelling. From that point onward, I always wore a glove.

Time passed, and I thanked my Lord that although my hand was still swollen, it did not affect my teaching career. In 1984, I began to envy the sisters who could work for the Lord in the church with two good hands, while I had to wear a glove and could not work freely. So, I asked my Lord to help me get rid of the glove and the pain of my swollen hand so that I could work for Him with both of my hands. I dared not ask the Lord to let my right hand recover to the same size as my left hand. I felt like the Canaanite woman who had asked for Jesus' mercy to let her have the crumbs that fell from the table, because I had already received so many blessings from my Lord.

On November 2, 1985, I attended the Nei-Li Church Spiritual Convocation. During the service, the pastor testified about many of the Lord's blessings. Before the prayer session began, I thought that since others could receive so much healing, I should be able to receive the same; after all, the Lord had told me twice that my hand would be healed. Therefore, I decided to pray fervently and repent. That night, the Lord's voice came again and said, "Your hand is healed." He also showed me a hand. After I heard the voice, I jumped up and prayed to the Lord with thankfulness. On November 3rd, I took off the glove and never wore it again, and the hand did not swell after that either. I am very thankful for my Lord's blessing and mercy.

2. Hallelujah, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I testify. This incident took place in Pacifica Church, California, during a prayer session at a National Youth Theological Seminar. Before the prayer, Pr. Derren Liang encouraged us to pray earnestly, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to be enriched with the word of God. Pr. Liang also encouraged us to change our old selves and to become humble and obedient children of God. A few minutes after the prayer began, a bright light suddenly shone into my eyes. At first, I thought the light was coming in through the window. I decided to ignore it, and lowered my head. The light continued to shine into my eyes persistently. I then lifted my head, and realized that this was no ordinary light. It was a glorious experience.

A few minutes later, a person in a white garment walked towards me. His face was somewhat unclear. He pointed to me and said, "I live in you." At that moment, I was overwhelmed with rivers of living water that welled up from the depths of my heart. I stretched out my arms to grab hold of His garment. I felt incredible joy at that moment. Then He said, "I must leave." I wanted to call to the sisters in front of me, to ask them to help me hold on to His garment. At this point, my head was almost touching the carpet, and I exclaimed, "No, no, please, God, no!" I said, "It was so difficult for me to grab hold of Your garment. It is impossible for me to let it go!" Once again, Jesus said, "I must leave." I continued to hold His garment, and said, "No, no, no!" A sister then approached me and said, "Hallelujah. Amen!" I then let go of His garment and He disappeared, and the vision ended.

This was truly a wonderful experience, one that I will keep with me for the rest of my life. I now know that He will take care of me, love me, and always live in me. Just as John 7:38 records, "He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." May all glory be given unto the name of our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever. Hallelujah. Amen.

Students, Jesus is not just some superhero in a cartoon or fairy tale. He is our almighty God who loves us, and He wants us to believe in Him so that we can go to heaven. Miracles and wonders happen so that we can believe in Him more.

2. Have faith in God without doubt.

During the lesson, we all shared some of the things we're afraid of. What makes us afraid of these things? If God is with us, would we be afraid? When Peter first saw Jesus walking on the water, he was not afraid but believed that he could also walk on the water. So, when he believed, he was able to walk on the water. But what happened when he began to doubt? [Let students answer.] When he saw the wind and the waves, he became afraid and began to sink.

Students, what are some reasons why we doubt? [Let students share.] Sometimes, people promise us things and they don't always keep their promises, so we're not sure if we can trust them again. In other words, we doubt them. Other times, there are things that just don't make sense, so we doubt that they're true. But what about God? Is God someone who would change or break His promises? Certainly not. God is faithful; He keeps His promises to us. We can have faith in God without a doubt. Let's see what the Bible says! Turn to Deuteronomy 7:9 and read together: "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments."

What are some of God's promises to us? [Let students share.] God has promised us that He will give us the Holy Spirit. He has also promised us that if we believe Him and follow His commandments, we can go to heaven. God promises us that He will never leave us alone. The Bible records countless promises of God. We don't have to doubt and we don't have to be afraid when we know that God is faithful. Now, let's play a game! You will see five scenarios and five promises. For each scenario, choose an appropriate promise from God to encourage the student.

[Divide the board into two columns, one for scenarios and one for God's promises. Then, write the following four scenarios and four promises in random order.]

Scenarios

1. Sarah has been praying for the Holy Spirit. All of her classmates have already received the Holy Spirit.
2. Teddy's mom is very strict so he doesn't want to listen to her all the time.
3. Lucas has been afraid of sleeping by himself in his room because he recently saw a news report on a scary robbery.
4. Jessie's friend has invited her to a birthday party on the Sabbath, and she's wondering if God would care if she skipped service.

God's Promises

1. God promises to give each and every one of us the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16).
2. God promises to bless us with a long life if we keep the fifth commandment: "Honor your father and your mother" (Ex 20:12).
3. The Lord never sleeps, and He will guard us when we go out and when we come home (Ps 121).
4. God will bless us if we keep the Sabbath holy and keep from doing our own things, but come to service to worship Him (Isa 58:13-14).

Students, we know that God is faithful. But at the same time, God also knows that we are weak and have doubts sometimes. He doesn't expect us to be perfect right away nor will He punish us harshly for our doubts. This is why He puts us in situations from time to time where He gives us a chance to turn to Him. He will teach us to place our trust in Him through various lessons in life. Our responsibility is to respond to these situations wisely, using the word of God, and trust that God is faithful to keep His promises. God will never bring us down. We should have faith in Him without any doubts!

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. D
2. E
3. A
4. compassion
5. faith; doubt
6. 5,000; 5; 2
7. False; He fed everyone using five loaves of bread and two fish.
8. True
9. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITY

5,000-Piece Class Mosaic

Objective: To get a sense of “5,000,” the number of people fed by the five loaves and two fish.

The final product for this activity will be a poster-sized mosaic of Jesus walking on water, a scene from today's Bible lesson, using 5,000 pieces of different colored paper.

Materials

- Large poster or banner
- Paper cutter or scissors
- Glue stick, one per student
- Black marker
- Sandwich bags, one per color
- Construction paper
- Ruler, optional

Preparations

1. Prepare a large poster or banner with outlines from the scene from today's lesson drawn with black marker. (Note: A sample scene has been provided for you to copy, or you can choose to draw your own scene.)
2. Label each region with a color.
3. Measure approximately how many pieces per color you need to completely fill the corresponding spaces in the poster. One way to measure this is, after drawing the outline on the poster, take several sheets of construction paper of the corresponding colors and roughly fill the spaces.
4. After you have selected the right number of sheets for each color, cut them into roughly 5,000 pieces. (To fill a 36" x48" poster with a little white space between the pieces, you need about 5,000 pieces of 0.5" x0.5" size pieces. You may cut the pieces into rectangular shapes or random shapes. The easiest way to keep track is to cut along a grid.)
5. Prepare one envelope or sandwich bag for each color, and put one color in each bag.

Instructions

1. Show the students the poster with the plain outline. Explain to them that they will be “coloring in” the spaces with the correct colors by gluing tiny pieces of the corresponding colors onto the poster.
2. Put the poster in the center of a large table so that all of the students can sit around the same table.
3. Give each student an envelope or bag of pieces. Let each student estimate how many pieces are in each bag, and count together as a class how many pieces there are; the final count should be around 5,000.
4. Ask the students to imagine 5,000 people and how much food is needed to feed that many people.
5. Give each student a glue stick or bottle of glue and ask them to glue their pieces into the spaces that are labeled with their color. [If you have a different number of students versus number of colors, adjust accordingly by either giving each student more than one color or giving more than one student the same color.]
 - Some spaces may be only one color while other spaces are multi-colored.
 - Ask the students to distribute the colors evenly in the multi-colored areas.
6. When all of the spaces have been filled with the tiny pieces, allow the glue to dry and hang up the poster so that everyone can see the beautiful mosaic.



E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 2—Jesus Walks on Water

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is almighty and has the power to perform miracles because He is God.

Lesson Objective: To teach students that they should have faith in God without doubt.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Mark 9:23)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : What did Jesus do wherever He went?
 - a. Healed the sick
 - b. Performed miracles
 - c. Taught the word of God
 - d. All of the above

2. _____ : When the disciples were on a boat to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, _____.
 - a. They sailed over to the other side on smooth water and nothing happened
 - b. There was a storm and they were afraid
 - c. Jesus came to them walking on the water
 - d. None of the above
 - e. Both b and c

3. _____ : After Jesus came onto the boat, the winds stopped and everyone on the boat worshipped Him, saying He was _____.
 - a. The Son of God
 - b. The Christ or Messiah
 - c. The King of kings and Lord of lords
 - d. The Savior

Fill In the Blank

4. Jesus healed the sick because He had _____ on them.
5. Jesus lifted Peter from the water and said, "You of little _____, why did you _____?"
6. Jesus fed _____ people with _____ loaves of bread and _____ fish.

True or False

7. Once, when Jesus was healing the sick, it was getting late, so He sent them home hungry. _____
8. Peter started walking on the water, but after he saw the wind and the waves, he was afraid and started to sink.

Life Application

9. Work with a parent. Ask your mom or dad to share a testimony about a miracle. It can be something that happened in your family or something they heard or read about in Manna, Holy Spirit Monthly, or any other TJC publication. Share with your parent why this miracle helps your faith and how it shows that the Lord is compassionate. Write one paragraph (3-5 sentences) summarizing the miracle and your sharing.
