

*Get Ready!***Peter**

By: Myra Montgomery

**Text**

Matthew 14:22-36

**Key Quest Verse**

"Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always." Psalm 105:4, NIV

**Bible Background**

Peter was a super-fisherman, one of the best on the Sea of Galilee. He gathered fish and mended nets better than most and was successful enough that he actually had two homes, one in his native Bethsaida, another in Capernaum. Success in his beloved work, and the stature Simon enjoyed physically and occupationally, likely fostered the self-sufficiency and fire he exhibited. But God used these very traits to establish Peter as a leader among the disciples. Many times he spoke for them, asking and saying what others would only think.

Jesus included Peter in many of the personal, even intimate events of His ministry. In the Scriptures we find that Peter was present at the transfiguration and when Christ brought Jairus' daughter back from the dead. When Jesus walked on water, it was Peter's impetuosity that motivated him to get out of the boat and join the Lord. Why would Jesus pick such a difficult man as one of His foremost disciples? Clearly, it is because Jesus would transform Peter's traits into powerful tools for His ministry.

*Get Ready!*

### Lesson Quest

**What I want my students to:**

**Know:** What faith means to us

**Feel:** When I look to Jesus for help instead of trusting in what I can do, I am safe.

**Do:** Keep doing the things God wants us to do.

### Leader's Devotion

One lesson we learn from Peter is that repentance needs to be immediate, decisive, and sincere. Christ showed Peter that without Him we are little more than bluster. We can clamor and rattle our way through life, but when the dust settles we are the dirtier. We can throw off the old, common man and put on the new, uncommon one, knowing only Jesus has the ability to cleanse and restore us.

Also, remember that many of the major events of Peter's association with Christ occur on or near the Sea of Galilee, which had provided sustenance for the fisherman's entire life. The reason? Jesus meets us right where we are in our lives. Peter was at home on the Sea of Galilee. This is where Jesus found him, and this is where Jesus called him to be a minister of His hope, love, and forgiveness. But we can learn from Peter. Perhaps his most compelling characteristic wasn't impulsiveness or outspokenness but his willingness to change and become a person mightily used of God.

The promises of God are by faith. Faith is believing God and stepping out by obedience knowing that God can be trusted. Those who walk by faith allow God to guide their steps knowing that He will never forsake them nor allow them to be deprived. Our inheritance lies across the river. Trusting God is the only way to get across.

Get Set!

**Option A**

**Materials:** Raisins, clear small cups or glasses, clear carbonated beverage

Fill small Dixie cups halfway with 7UP or Sprite, then have the students drop a few raisins into their cups. The bubbles that form on the sides of the raisins help them float to the top. Our lesson is that just as the bubbles help the raisins float, in the same way Jesus helped Peter stay afloat. I want you to listen to a story about faith!

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

**Option B**

**Materials:** Marble, glass of water

**Look at this marble and a glass of water. What do you think will happen if I place the marble on the surface of the water? [it will sink] The marble is heavier than the water and it will sink. What happens when you go swimming? If you don't paddle, will you sink? [yes] I want to tell you about a story in the Bible when two people walked on water!**

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

**Get Set!****Bible Story**

**Advanced Preparation:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

We are going to learn some more about one of the followers of Jesus. Who remembers who went fishing with Jesus? Peter Today we are going learn how Jesus taught Peter about faith.

**Matthew 14:22-23**

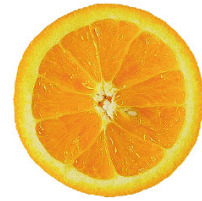
The disciples had a long tiring day and Jesus sent them out in the boat to go over to another town. It was a dark stormy night and the wind was tossing the waves around. In the middle of the night, they thought they were seeing a ghost when Jesus came to them walking on the sea! Jesus saw they were scared and told them not to be afraid. When they were the most afraid, he told them to cheer up, he was with them! God has to take the storm out of us before He can take us out of the storms of life.

Peter must have wondered if it really was Jesus or just their imagination. He asked Jesus to tell him to come out on the water with him if this was really happening. Jesus didn't say, "I'm sorry, Peter, but water-walking is for Messiahs only." No, he said one simple word: Come. God calls us to do impossible things by faith. It must have taken a lot of faith by Peter to take that first step out of the boat in the middle of the wind and waves. When he did, Peter walked on water! The Bible says, "And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me."

Peter was doing fine until he took his eyes off Jesus. As long as he had faith, he did impossible things to do without God's help. He kept his eyes on Jesus and walked on water. When he looked around at the world, he started believing that the storm was going to defeat him. He lost faith. He took his eyes off Jesus, and he began to sink. If we forget that Jesus is right there to help us, we can let the storms of life cause us to sink. If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can do mighty things for God by faith.

Then Peter uttered what is probably the shortest prayer in the Bible: Lord, save me. Everyone needs to say that prayer. We ALL need Jesus to save us. He is our only hope. Jesus told Peter he should not have doubted. When they got back in the ship, everyone on board came and worshipped Jesus, saying, "Of a truth thou art the Son of God." Whenever we do something with God's help we need to remember to give Him the glory for it.

This should be our hope. That we can live our life everyday, with our eyes on Jesus!

**Go!****Floating Orange**

SCIENCE

**Materials:** Orange, large bowl of water**Quest Connection****Procedure:**

**Who can tell me what this is?** (an orange). **Do you think the orange will sink or float in water?** Have students try it. (It floats) Then ask what if I take the peel off the orange, what will happen? Then have them try it. (It sinks) **Why** - air pockets around peel kept the orange afloat. Compare the orange to Peter. When he was able to walk on water he was like an orange with a peel (could be a pun in there somewhere). When Peter started to sink it was like he'd taken his peel off (he'd lost his faith).

**Close**

**When are times in your life when you've lost your peel?**

**Go!****Creative Drama****DRAMA****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

Divide the group into various parts. You'll need a person to be Peter, another person to be Jesus. Most of the rest can be the "waves," and a few can be disciples.

Read the story as it takes place in the Bible. Those who are waves sit on their knees and wave their arms around as the story speaks of the increasing storm. Peter and the other disciples are on one side of the group of people being waves, and Jesus appears on the other side, walking through and around the people to symbolize walking on water. The story plays out – when Peter steps out of the boat he walks just as Jesus did at first; but when he begins to sink the "waves" start to engulf him as Peter reaches to Jesus for help. Jesus saves Peter and the waves calm down.

**Close**

**How would you have acted when Jesus said, "Come!"? Would you have had enough faith to walk on the water?**

**Go!****Save Peter****GAME**

**Materials:** Blue sheet or tablecloth (nothing smaller than a double-bed or large rectangular tablecloth; 84 X 102), Blindfold

**Quest Connection**

Have the children stand in a circle. Give them each an edge of the sheet or tablecloth to hold. The sheet or tablecloth represents a wave. Have the children crouch down and then rise up together lifting the sheet above their heads then lowering it back down to the floor again. Now select a child to let go of the sheet and become the "walker". The objective is for them to get to the other side of the circle before the wave comes back down to cover them. (It shouldn't be too difficult for most children.) After everyone has had a chance to try it, pull out the blindfold. Now the child selected must get to the other side without being able to see before the wave gets him. After each child has had an opportunity to try it blindfolded follow up the activity with the following questions:

1. Was it easier to get to the other side with or without the blindfold?
2. If you had to balance on something like a board and walk across, would that be harder or easier?

**Close**

In our story today one of Jesus' friends, Peter gets to do something special. He gets to walk on top of water. But when a big wave comes up and he can't see Jesus, oh boy!

Who can tell me what happens next?

**Go!**

### Instant Reclay

#### ART/CRAFTS

**Material:** Play-doh (Blue, red, yellow, white) rolling pins (several), wax paper



### Quest Connection

**Procedure:** Seat the students around the table. As you narrate the story give them pieces of Play-doh to form into the following shapes and place on the wax paper scene as called for.

1. Role out a fairly large piece of blue for the Lake.
2. Shape a yellow piece into an elongated bowl to represent the boat. Place it on the Lake.
3. Give each child a very small piece of white to form into a disciple to place in the boat.
4. Roll out blue pieces then fold up to form "waves". Place them near the boat on the Lake.
5. Shape a small white piece with a red wrap around it to represent Jesus. Place Jesus at the opposite end of the Lake from the boat.
6. Take one of the white shapes out of the boat to represent Peter. Place him standing up in the water. Place one of the waves between him and the boat.
7. **Place the Jesus and Peter figures back into the boat.**

### Close

Have students roll their clay into balls. Have them retell the story on their own as they recreate it in clay.



**Go!****Beat the Waves****MEMORY VERSE**

**Materials:** A copy of the worksheet, “Memory Verse challenge”, popsicle stick, tape

**Quest Connection**

Show the children where the memory verse is found in the Bible. Give them each a copy of the worksheet to color. Cut out both the waves and Peter. Tape a popsicle stick to the back of Peter. Cut a slit on the dotted lines in the waves. Choose a volunteer to go first to repeat the memory verse. Hold their wave paper with the colored side facing up and barely insert the man figure, which represents Peter, into the slit. Encourage the child to repeat the memory verse and finish it before you have pulled Peter all the way down through the wave. Do this procedure with each child. Have the children take the paper and man home and share the verse with their family and friends, taking turns pulling Peter through.

**Close**

**Take Peter and the wave home and have a family member challenge you!**

**Go!****Ready to Help****GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

**Procedure:** Have all the students lie down in various spots in the room, not right next to each other, but not further than a good stretch away. Ask them to pretend they are in trouble. What kind of trouble could they imagine being in? (Parents are mad because you didn't obey, Teacher is upset because you cause problems in class, Brother or sister are upset at you because you broke something of theirs, etc.)

After each child has thought of something, you the teacher, start with the child closest to you. Pull them up and while doing so say, "Jesus is always ready to help you." While the two of you are still holding hands, they select the next child closest to them and repeat the procedure you did. While the three of you are still holding hands, the third child repeats the procedure.

Continue in this manner until all children are standing and linked together. Talk about how Jesus is as willing to help us as we were to help each other.

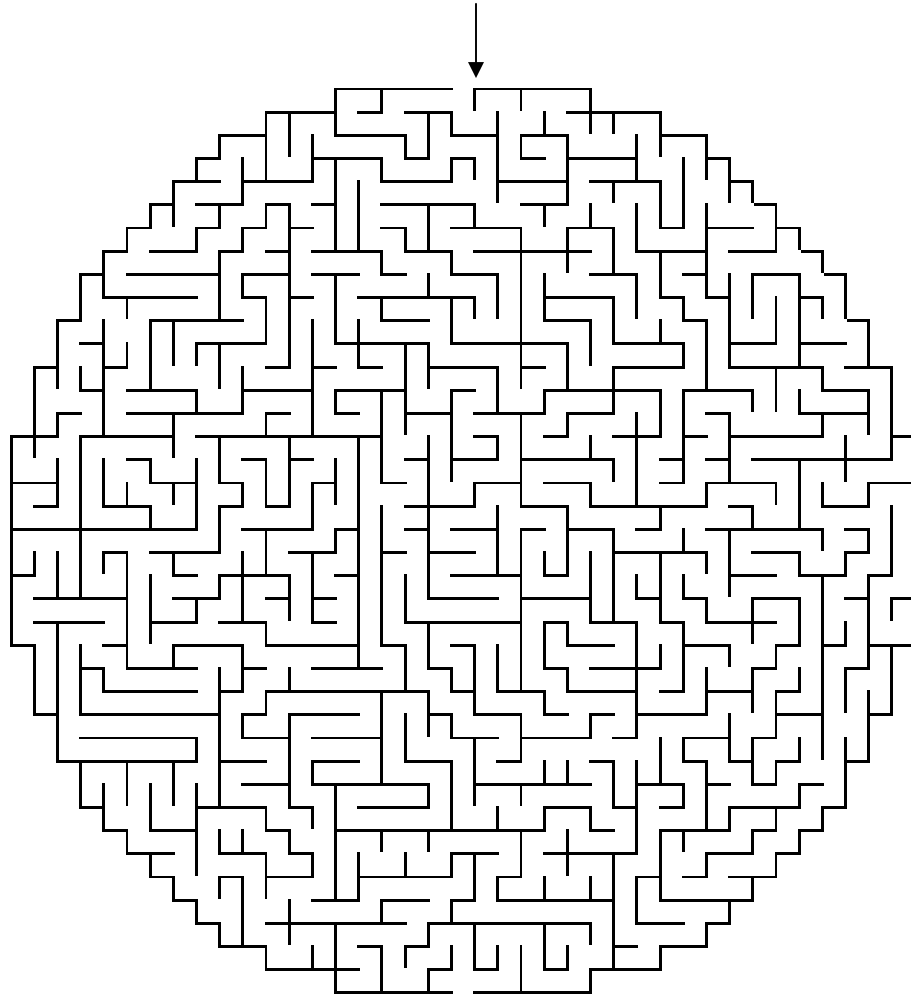
**Close**

**What are some ways Jesus may help us when we ask?** (Send someone older and bigger to help, give us the energy and patience to finish something, give us extra courage to face the trouble, etc.)

Memory Verse Challenge



Help Peter Find Jesus!



# THE LIFE OF PETER

A skit written by Steve Lindsley

## IN THE BOAT

(Peter and disciples are in the boat. Sound of wind is swirling about. Disciples are huddled together and look scared.)

**DISCIPLE #1** – Hey, look! What’s that out there?

**DISCIPLE #2** – I can’t see anything! What do you see?

**DISCIPLE #3** – Wait, I can see something ... someone! Who is it?!?

**DISCIPLE #1** – It must be a ghost!

**PETER** – Wait, you’re wrong. It’s Jesus!

(Jesus appears in view)

**DISCIPLES** – Oh Jesus, we’re glad you’re here!

Save us, Jesus!

Help us, we’re drowning!

**JESUS** – Take heart, my friends, and do not be afraid. It is me!

**PETER** – Lord, if it is really you out there, command me to come walk to you on water, just as you are doing.

**JESUS** – Come, Peter.

(Peter very cautiously takes a step out of the boat onto the water. Hesitant at first, he puts his foot down and is able to stand! He steps out of the boat and begins walking very slowly to Jesus. Arms are out to the sides like a balancing act)

**DISCIPLES** – Oh, wow! Look at that!

Can you believe what he’s doing?

Go Peter, go!

**PETER** – (about halfway between boat and Jesus) Wow, the wind sure is strong. And the rain....I don’t know if I can do this any more... (Peter starts to slowly “sink”) Oh no! Oh no! I’m sinking! Help Jesus, Help! Lord, Save me! Save me!

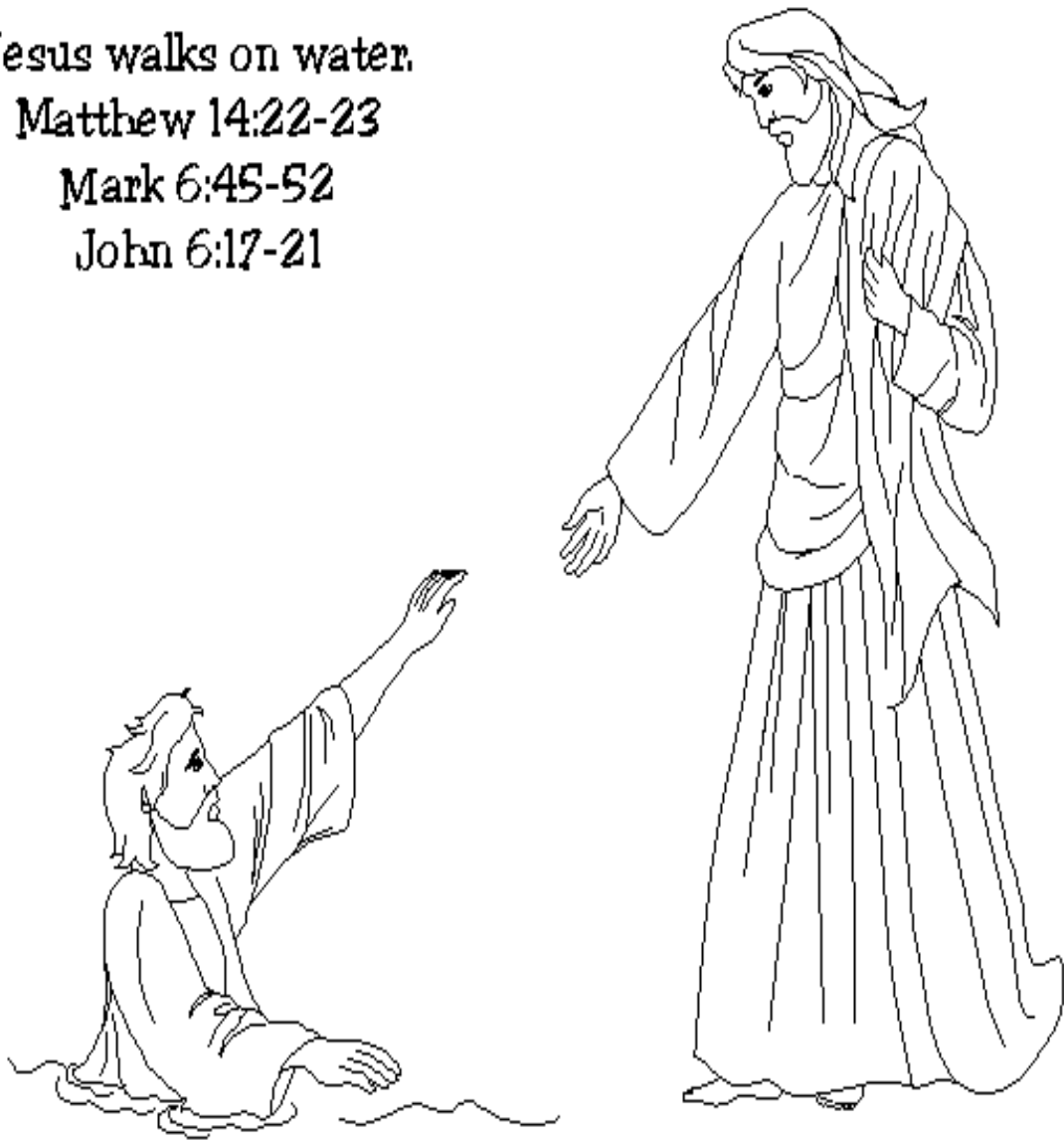
**JESUS** – (stepping forward, reaching to help Peter back up and in to the boat) Oh Peter, why didn’t you believe?

Jesus walks on water.

Matthew 14:22-23

Mark 6:45-52

John 6:17-21



What did Jesus say to Peter? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Peter say to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_