

## READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is

### **Walking on Water**

from Matthew 14:22-33.

**When we focus on Jesus, fears cannot stop us.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Evening
- Command
- Batter
- Sink
- Terrify
- Doubt
- Ghost
- Cease

Consider the irony: Peter, the Rock, sinks.

**Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 294-297

*Spark Bible* page 1076

## Family Prayer

**Redeeming Savior, you have good reason to say, "Oh you of little faith." We are so easily frightened and distracted even though you are ever-present. We pray that you continue to hold out your hand to us. Please! Tell us we need not be afraid. Lord Jesus, you comfort us. We praise you. Amen.**

## TALK ABOUT IT

### Family Conversations

- 1 What would it feel like and sound like to be in a boat during a big storm?
- 2 For what could a storm be a metaphor—what might symbolically feel like a storm and cause fear?
- 3 What can we do to help ourselves remember to focus on Jesus when we are afraid?
- 4 Act out the story: everybody but one, get into the boat and pretend there is a big storm. You are very afraid. Jesus, walk on the water toward the boat and calm the storm. Invite Peter to walk on water with you and save him when he sinks in fear. Trade parts until everyone has had a chance to be Jesus or Peter.



### Eye Spark

Look for boats this week and when you see them, remember the disciples watching Jesus walk toward them over the water.



### Ear Spark

How many different ways can "Do not be afraid" be said? Where do you hear it?

## LIVE IT



### For families to do together

Jesus calls us to him. Play a game where one person is "It" and stands on one side of the yard just in front of a designated base space. Everyone else remains on the other side. It calls the others by naming something like "Everyone who is wearing red, come over." It tries to catch those who are running over before they reach base. Caught people become disciples and try to catch others who will run after they are called. Trade off being It or designate the first "disciple" caught to be It next—Invite your neighbors to join in. The more families, the better!

### For younger kids

All people are afraid sometimes. Draw a picture of Jesus taking Peter's hand when Peter began to sink. Give the picture to someone who you think could be one of Jesus' disciples.

### For older kids

Make up a story using the words from the "Ask each other what you remember about" section. Include yourself as Jesus' disciple. Include Jesus and Jesus' frequent comments, "Oh, you of little faith" and "Do not be afraid." Share your story with your family.



## Art

Act out this story at home. Fill the bathtub, roll up your pants and attempt to walk on water. Talk about how incredible it was that God enabled Jesus and Peter to defy the laws of science. We can't walk on water, but we CAN do incredible things—like helping others.

## Bible Skills and Games

Play a game of Freeze Tag. If a person is tagged, he or she is “frozen in fear.” In order to be unfrozen, a free person must tag them and say “When you are afraid . . .” and the frozen person must say “I can trust Jesus!” Then he or she is free to run again!

## Computer Lab

Place a small bowl of water on the table. Each person can share something that is making them feel anxious: an upcoming test, bad weather, too much to do etc. Kids can place a wet cross on their parents foreheads and parents on each other's. Parents do the same for each child.

## Cooking

Pop some popcorn on the stove. Use a large saucepan that has a lid. Add 2 Tablespoons (30 ml) of vegetable oil. Put 1 popcorn seed for each person in the pan and cover. Cook on medium high until the kernels pop. Add ¼ cup (60 ml) of popcorn and shake the pan. Talk about how faith pops of the situations. Share faith and share popcorn.

## Creative Drama

Pretend you are Peter. Tell the story from your point of view. Act it out with lots of drama, especially when you start sinking into the water. Invite your family members to be the other characters. Switch characters so everybody can try all the parts. Talk about what it would have been like to witness this story firsthand.

## Music

Gather some quiet, calm instruments and some loud, stormy ones. Have your family make a list of things that sometimes cause you all to be afraid, either as a group or as individuals. Play a loud instrument as you name each thing. Say a prayer asking Jesus to be with you during those times when scary things happen. Play the calm instruments.

## Science

Act this story out in another way. Mix 1 cup of cornstarch with a 1/2 cup of water. Add a few drops of blue food coloring. Put it in a bowl and walk your fingers across the surface like Peter on the water. Stop and feel your fingers begin to sink. We must keep moving forward in faith!

## Video

Plan a Face Your Fears Film Festival! Identify some television shows or movies that feature characters who have to overcome their fears. Watch one or more of these videos and talk through them afterwards. What did the character do to face fears? How did others support him or her? Be thankful that we don't need superpowers to face our fears – we have Jesus!