

## PETER'S CALL (RETROSPECTIVE)

**Scripture:**

Matthew 14:24-33/John 6:14-21

**Materials Needed:**

Worksheet

**Key Verse:** *Matthew 14:28, 29* "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—After the feeding of the 5,000 when the people were going to make Jesus king by force, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. After several hours, Jesus saw them straining against the wind and came to them walking on the water. Peter called out to Jesus and walked to him on the water, until he started to sink when he saw the waves, but Jesus grabbed hold of him and they got to land.

To Realize—When one is where Jesus has sent them and things become difficult, He is right there with them, so they shouldn't fear the surroundings but run to him for safety.

To Respond by—going to Jesus for safety when things are difficult.

**Setting up the Story:**

When you were younger, how many of you ever missed something exciting that was going on because you were too little to do it? How did you feel? Disappointed? Maybe that your parents didn't understand and were keeping you from something exciting! There was actually a time when the disciples could have felt that way!

The event in today's story happened JUST after Jesus fed the 5,000 and JUST before the Galilean crisis—in fact, it happened during the night between the two events. The reason why we saved it until today is because Peter is a main character and we are looking at how Jesus is training His disciples—so we are focusing especially on Peter and what Jesus is trying to teach him.

Scripture

**Telling the story:**

- I. Jesus Sends His Disciples Across the Lake.
  - A. The disciples have just been passing out bread and fish to feed 5,000
  - B. The people want to make Jesus King by force

**As you tell the story:**

Draw stick figures and write the headings that go IN the boxes as you tell the story. (Save the sub titles under the boxes until the end.)

Imagine you are the disciples and you have been with Jesus all this time while He has been teaching the crowds, and then you have been passing out bread and fish! And you hear some people start saying, "This is the Prophet who is to come into the world." What would you be thinking?!

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| <p>C. He immediately makes the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side.</p>   | <p>Maybe this is the time Jesus is going to set up his kingdom, and you are going to be right there! And you can tell that the crowd is beginning to talk about Jesus being their King! JUST then, Jesus comes up to you and tells you that you have to get in your boat and go to the other side of the Lake! ...without him!</p>   |
| <p>II. Jesus Comes to His Disciples</p> <p>A. Jesus dismisses the crowds and goes on the mountain to pray by himself.</p> <p>B. About eight or nine hours have passed—it's about 3 or 4 in the morning.</p> <p>C. The disciples had only rowed 3-1/2 miles against a strong wind.</p> <p>D. Jesus can see the small boat and goes to them by walking on the water.</p>              | <p>Maybe they felt like they were going to miss all of the excitement. But Jesus was doing for them exactly what they needed! It wasn't the right thing for Him to be forced to become king. He sends the crowds away and then goes to a place by himself on the mountain in order to talk to His Father.</p> <p>Meanwhile, do you know where the disciples are? They are STUCK in some pretty strong winds blowing against them! They have been rowing for hours and only traveled about 3-1/2 miles. HOW do you think the disciples feel? WHY are the disciples in the middle of the lake? WHO sent them out there? Jesus! So...are the disciples where they are supposed to be? Yes! But it doesn't feel like they are. They have no idea that Jesus can see them right then!</p> |
| <p>III. Peter Goes to Jesus</p> <p>A. The disciples think they are seeing a ghost as Jesus is about to pass by.</p> <p>B. Jesus tells them to take courage and not be afraid because it is He.</p> <p>C. Peter asks Jesus to tell him to come out if it is really him.</p> <p>D. Jesus says, "Come."</p> <p>E. Peter walks on the water toward Jesus</p> <p>1. He sees the wind</p> | <p>Jesus has been talking with His Father and knows that His Father wants him to go to be with the disciples...right then! So he is walking on the lake!</p> <p>Of course, the disciples see Jesus going by their boat and they DON'T say... "Oh, look, there's Jesus!" they are terrified and say, "There's a ghost!"</p> <p>Now—they've been in their little boat fighting wind and waves for hours! At that moment when Jesus says that it is him out there, where is the safest place to be? A battered little boat, or with Jesus? Peter decides that it is with Jesus!</p>   |

and is afraid

2. He starts to sink and cries out, "Lord! Save me!"
3. Immediately Jesus catches him and rebukes him for his little faith, asking why he doubted.

- IV. Jesus Gets in the boat
- A. The wind dies down
  - B. The disciples say "Truly you are the Son of God"
  - C. They reach the other shore.

And as long as Peter is looking at JESUS, he is safe. But what happens in verse 30? He takes his eyes off of Jesus! What does he look at instead? The wind and waves! Maybe it was a big wave just at that moment, because it suddenly occurs to Peter that he isn't supposed to be walking on water! That's impossible!

He starts to sink. Is he in the safest place now? No. Where is the safest place? With Jesus! And look who he cries out to! "Lord, save me!" That is a short and honest prayer!!

Peter was just beginning to learn the lesson Jesus wanted to teach him. (Write the sub-titles on the board)

### Concluding the Story:

1. This is where we should be
2. And Jesus is here with us
3. I must run to him.

The disciples hadn't missed all of the excitement. Jesus had sent them into a storm so that they would trust him even more and come to HIM in the storm.

Sometimes we have problems that we wonder why God has allowed them to be there.

(Write on board)

Problems with

My self

My parents

My friends

Understanding God

When things are all mixed up and we don't know where to go, where does Jesus want us to go? To HIM! "This is where I should be, and Jesus is here with me. I must run to Him."

A person who is truly following Jesus will run to Him for safety. Let's pray.