**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 1 of 4

# Jesus walks on water

### MEETING AIM

To see that Jesus invites us to join him in the miraculous. We do this by fixing our eyes on him.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 14:22-36

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your particular situation.

Matthew wrote his Gospel to display the significance of who Jesus is. His writing is full of the miraculous, interspersed with Jesus’ stories and teaching. In today’s passage, we see Jesus taking some time out for a mini retreat before catching up with the disciples who are far out on the water by walking across its surface. Peter, ever the impulsive one, asks Jesus to call him out on the water too.

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### GETTING STARTED – 5 mins

Welcome the young people with refreshments. If you want to use a conversation starter, try: What’s the daftest thing you’ve ever done?

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** a large space; newspaper

Divide the group into teams of four to six and provide each person with two sheets of newspaper. Ask them to cross the room only stepping on the newspaper. There are lots of different ways to do this. If groups find this too easy, you can make the sheets of newspaper smaller or take one away from each team.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** Bible; an inflatable dinghy or other boat if you have one

Ask the group to read through Matthew 14:22-34 together and then create a short sketch acting out the story. Everyone should be involved, so if you have a large group, you might choose to have some people be the waves or to provide sound effects for the drama. Let the group direct themselves.

When they have finished, get them to perform the sketch. If possible, they could perform it to another group or to the whole church.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Chat about the story using some of these questions. These are intended to be a starter – let the young people guide the conversation (providing you don’t go off on too many tangents!):

* Why do you think Jesus took some time out at the beginning of this story?
* Do you think Jesus planned this whole story out beforehand?
* What do you think Peter was thinking when he asked Jesus to call him out of the boat?
* What do you think he was thinking once he was out of the boat?
* What does Jesus show about who he is in this story?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** stiff postcard-sized pieces of card; tissue paper in lots of blues and greens; PVA glue; brushes

You are going to make tiny pieces of sea! Give each person a piece of card and show them how to layer tissue paper onto it to make the effect of waves on the sea. If you get the tissue really soaked in glue then you can push it with your fingers to make wrinkles that look like waves and choppy water.

Layer up the tissue paper to make interesting textures and colour combinations. You might like to have a go beforehand so that you can show the young people what they’re aiming at. To make high waves, scrunch some tissue paper up and glue it down before putting a smooth layer over the top. Remember, the more glue you use, the easier it will be to mould the waves as you want them. Make sure you leave the pieces of sea until they are completely dry.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** [‘Voice of truth’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cKm_mYVPQE) by Casting Crowns or [‘Oceans’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9_xzw) by Hillsong; sea pictures from ‘Creative response’

Have everyone get comfy and ask them to think about situations that feel like being in a stormy sea for them. They can use their seascape picture to focus their thoughts. Create some space for each person to have an internal conversation with Jesus about that situation and who he is in it. Play one of the songs as people reflect.

Encourage the young people to take their sea postcards home and put them somewhere they will see it regularly, to remind them to continue their conversation with Jesus.

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