



St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge



## Family Activities: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Trust in Jesus

*Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home' and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 1045am to go through some of the activities together!*

*Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at [carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk) to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @1045am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.*

**Theme:** To look to Jesus and have faith in him to help us.

#### Setting the Scene:

Take two glasses and fill them half full with water. Put 3 x tablespoons of salt into one of the glasses. Take an egg and draw a face on it.

Talk about what would happen if you tried to walk on water. Then drop the egg gently into the glass filled with ordinary water – it will sink. Explain that this is just like the person in our story today as he sank into the water when he doubted Jesus.

Then drop the egg into the glass filled with salty water – it should float! Then talk about how the person in our story also could float / walk on water when he kept his eyes on Jesus and had faith in him.

**Song:** Sing and dance along to 'Your Love' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9ajEQpKYo4>



**Bible Passage:** Matthew 14, 22 - 33

A cartoon of the bible passage can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeciV3PQAoc>

...or you may prefer to read it:





## Jesus Walks on the Water

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus made his followers get into the boat. He told them to go ahead of him to the other side of the lake. Jesus stayed there to tell the people they could go home. <sup>23</sup> After he said good-bye to them, he went alone up into the hills to pray. It was late, and Jesus was there alone. <sup>24</sup> By this time, the boat was already far away on the lake. The boat was having trouble because of the waves, and the wind was blowing against it.

<sup>25</sup> Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus' followers were still in the boat. Jesus came to them. He was walking on the water. <sup>26</sup> When the followers saw him walking on the water, they were afraid. They said, "It's a ghost!" and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus quickly spoke to them. He said, "Have courage! It is I! Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> Peter said, "Lord, if that is really you, then tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, "Come."

And Peter left the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when Peter saw the wind and the waves, he became afraid and began to sink. He shouted, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. Jesus said, "Your faith is small. Why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup> After Peter and Jesus were in the boat, the wind became calm. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "Truly you are the Son of God!"

### Questions to ask:

- 1) Which part of the story did you like best and why?
- 2) What was the water and the weather like when Jesus asked Peter to step out onto the lake?
- 3) How do you think Peter felt as he stepped out of the boat?
- 4) How do you think Peter felt as he began to walk on the water?
- 5) Why did Peter begin to sink?
- 6) Who saved Peter?

*Sometimes difficult things may happen in our lives or changes may happen and it can feel like we are walking on a stormy sea! But Jesus promises to help us through it if we keep our eyes fixed on him.*



- 7) Now we can't see Jesus in front of us like we can our friends – so how do we 'keep our eyes fixed on him'?

### Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

While the disciples were going to the other side of the lake in their boat, the wind came up and the water began to get rough. The disciples became afraid that their boat would sink and they would be drowned. Then they looked, and they saw Jesus coming toward them and he was walking on the water. When Peter saw Jesus, he became excited and he said to him, "Lord, if that's really you, let me walk to you on the water. Jesus answered Peter and said, "Come."

Peter climbed over the side of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. Then he began to look around, he felt the strong winds and saw the waves and he became afraid and started to sink. He cried out to Jesus, "Help, save me!" Jesus reached out his hand and saved Peter and he said to him, "Oh, you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he was walking on the water, but when he took his eyes off of Jesus, he began to sink. As we go through life, there will be some storms. We will encounter some pretty rough water. As long as we keep our eyes upon Jesus and put our trust in him, we will be okay. But when we take our eyes off of Jesus and put our confidence in our own ability, we will surely sink!

With thanks to [https://sermons4kids.com/walk\\_on\\_water.htm](https://sermons4kids.com/walk_on_water.htm) for the above explanation.

### Prayer:

***"Dear Jesus, as we walk through life and things change or we have difficult times, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you and to trust in you. Amen."***

### Game:

#### 1. Jenga

Play a game of Jenga, taking it in turns to move a block from the tower and place it on top. Keep going till the tower collapses. Discuss how when the blocks get taken away and moved, the Jenga tower becomes wobbly and unstable and so eventually collapses because the foundations are weak. It is important when we are faced with fear and doubts to remember the truths that we know about God. These things give us a strong foundation.

### Activity:

#### 1) Pebble Painting



ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK

## Pebble Painting

- 1** You will need pebbles, paint and any tools you want, such as cocktail sticks, to make patterns with.
- 2** Paint the pebbles. What patterns can you make?

### DISCUSS

As they paint talk about how when we doubt, God is still strong and firm like the pebble. God never changes and we can lean on him in our doubts. You may like to offer the children some bible verses which reflect God's promises to us written on strips of paper so the children can take one of these too!

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