Preschool–Grade 5

Jesus Walks on Water Craft

Peter on the waves · Matthew 14:22–33 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



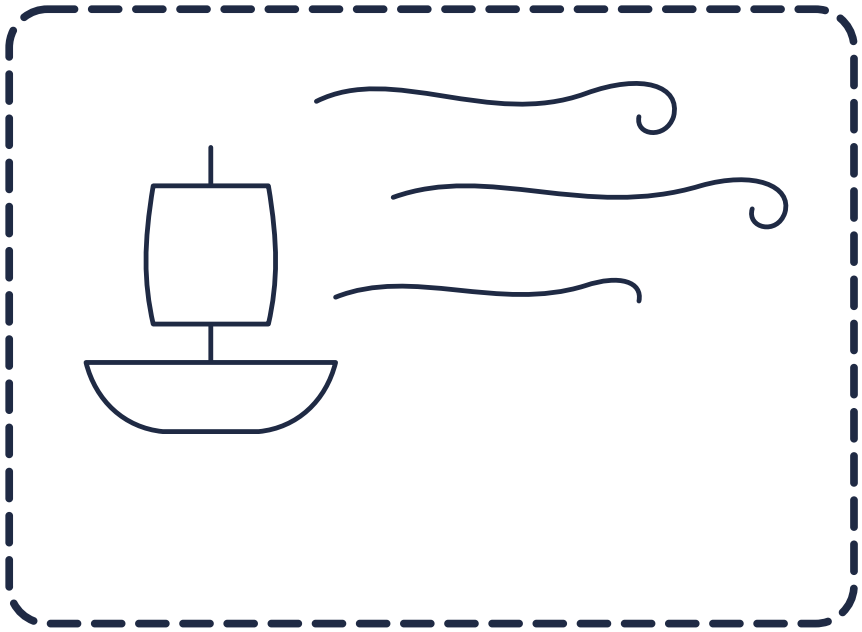
Harder

Both levels are a night sea card with a dark blue sky, wind lines and a ship on the left. A light blue wave band is glued across the bottom, and Peter, drawn by the child in an oval window on a craft stick, slides up and down behind the waves. Medium (left): Peter walks on the water (Matthew 14:29). Harder (right): a raised paper ship from page 3 makes a pocket for Peter, and Peter is beginning to sink (14:30).

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Sea card: sky dark blue, ship brown, sail white

Color the sky all around the ship. The wind lines show through.



Wave band: light blue

Glue the two ends only, on the bottom of the sea card.



Peter's window

Draw Peter here, then glue it on top of a craft stick.

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Matthew 14:27 (KJV)

Verse card: glue it on the back of the sea card.

Color the sky dark blue, the ship brown and the waves light blue. Draw Peter in his window. Cut out every piece, glue Peter's window on a craft stick, and glue the wave band on the bottom of the sea card by its two ends only.

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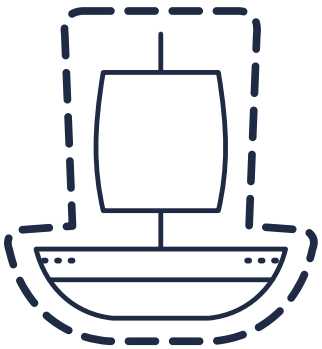
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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Ship pocket (harder level)



hull and mast: brown · sail: leave it white · glue on the back of the two ends of the hull only
It is the same size as the ship on the sea card, so it covers it.

How to add the ship pocket

1. Do the first four medium steps from page 2: color, draw Peter, cut out the pieces and glue Peter's window on the craft stick. Wait to glue the wave band.
2. Color the ship's hull and mast brown and leave the sail white. Cut out the ship on the dashed line.
3. Turn the ship over. Put glue on the two ends of the hull only (the dotted marks), not on the sail or the middle. Press it right on top of the ship printed on the sea card. Now the ship is a pocket.
4. Glue the wave band across the bottom of the sea card by its two ends, and glue the verse card on the back.
5. Act out the story. Slide Peter down behind the ship: he is in the ship. Lift him out and slide him down behind the waves: he came down out of the ship and walked on the water (Matthew 14:29). Pull him down: beginning to sink, he cried, "Lord, save me" (14:30). Push him up: Jesus caught him (14:31). Put him back in the ship: the wind ceased (14:32).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/walking-on-water-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one craft stick per child, dark blue, light blue and brown crayons or markers (plus any colors for drawing Peter), scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's sea card, wave band, Peter's window and verse card, glue each window on a craft stick, and glue each wave band on its sea card by the two ends only. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue them together as above. Kids color the sky, the ship and the waves, and draw Peter in the window (or you draw a simple face for them). They glue the verse card on the back with your help, then slide Peter up and down: walking on the water, beginning to sink, and caught. Read the verse together, or just "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw Peter, cut out the pieces, glue Peter's window on a craft stick, glue the wave band on by its ends, glue the verse card on the back and slide Peter in. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, but before gluing the wave band, glue the ship from page 3 over the printed ship by its two hull ends, so it makes a pocket. Kids act out the whole story: out of the ship, walking, sinking, caught, and back into the ship where the wind ceased. They say Matthew 14:27 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why Peter is in a window: the craft draws no people. Kids draw Peter themselves in the oval window. The craft does not show Jesus; tell the kids what the Bible says: Jesus came to them walking on the sea, and He stretched forth His hand and caught Peter (Matthew 14:25, 14:31).

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the sky on the sea card dark blue all around the ship. The wind lines will show through. Color the ship's hull and mast brown and leave the sail white. Color the wave band light blue.
2. **Draw:** in Peter's window, draw Peter standing up, with short hair and a robe.
3. **Cut:** cut out the sea card, the wave band, Peter's window and the verse card on the dashed lines.
4. **Peter's stick:** glue the top of the craft stick on the back of Peter's window, so Peter stands on the stick.
5. **Waves:** turn the wave band over and put glue on its two ends only. Press it across the bottom of the sea card, with the bottom edges lined up. Keep glue off the middle, so the stick can slide behind the waves.
6. **Verse:** turn the sea card over and glue the verse card on the back. Read it together.
7. **Walk on the water:** slide the craft stick down behind the wave band from the top, so its end comes out at the bottom. Push Peter up: he walks on the water (Matthew 14:29). Pull him down: he is beginning to sink (14:30). Push him up again: Jesus caught him (14:31).

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the wind lines. Which way was the wind blowing? *(It was contrary, against the ship, Matthew 14:24)*
- When did Jesus come to the ship, walking on the sea? *(In the fourth watch of the night, the last part of the night, 14:25)* What did the disciples think He was? *(A spirit, 14:26)*
- Push Peter up. What did Jesus tell Peter? *("Come," 14:29)* Pull Peter down. Why did he begin to sink? *(When he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid, 14:30)*
- What did Peter cry out, and what did Jesus do? *("Lord, save me," and immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him, 14:30–31)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** straightway = right away; spake = spoke; be of good cheer = cheer up, take courage; it is I = it's Me; contrary = blowing against them; the fourth watch of the night = the last part of the night, before morning; boisterous = wild and strong; ceased = stopped.
- **What the Bible says:** the ship was "tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary" (Matthew 14:24), so the card shows wind lines and waves. Matthew doesn't say how many disciples were in the ship, so the craft shows none. Matthew doesn't mention the moon or stars, so the sky has none. Peter is drawn by the kids in his window, and the craft does not draw Jesus.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the windows on the sticks and the wave bands on the cards ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Sliding:** cardstock slides best. If the stick sticks, check for glue in the middle of the wave band. Keep the wave band glued only at its two ends.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Jesus walks on water Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/walking-on-water.

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