

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, help me to trust always in You and to pray without doubt, for I know that You hear me and care for me. Amen.

Memory Verses

1. “Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God” (Exodus 20:7).
2. “Anyone who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. Such a man should not expect to get anything from the Lord” (James 1:6-7).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #09 of 13: Peter Walks on Water (Matthew 14)

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Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #09 of 13

Second Commandment

Peter Walks on Water



God says to you in the second commandment,
“Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God”
(Exodus 20:7).

THIS MEANS you must pray without doubt,
knowing that God will hear and care for you.

Bible Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

1. While they were in the boat, what did the disciples see that terrified them?

The disciples were terrified when they saw Jesus walking on the water, because they thought He was a ghost.

2. What did Jesus do to comfort His disciples?

Jesus spoke Words to comfort His disciples. “‘Have courage,’ He said. ‘It is I. Don’t be afraid.’” Jesus’ Words have great, miracle-producing power. When Jesus said, “Have courage,” these Words miraculously gave His disciples courage. When He said, “Don’t be afraid,” these Words powerfully chased away His disciples’ fear.

3. Jesus commanded Peter to get out of the boat.

a. How was it possible for Peter to walk on the water?

Normally a person cannot walk on the water. The person sinks! However, Jesus has powerful Words. When Jesus told Peter to get out of the boat, His Words performed a miracle, making it possible for Peter to stand on the surface of the water!

b. What happened to Peter when he saw the wind?

When Peter saw the wind, he doubted Jesus’ Words and he felt afraid again. Jesus’ Words did not lose their power when Peter started to sink. Jesus’ Words remained powerful, but Peter lost the *benefit* of Jesus’ powerful Words when he doubted the Words.

Think of it this way: Suppose your teacher gave you a cookie and said, “This is for you. Eat the cookie and enjoy it.” You will not receive the benefit of eating the cookie if you do not believe your teacher’s words and take the cookie. In a similar way, Peter’s fear and doubt caused him to lose the benefit of Jesus’ powerful Words.

c. To whom did Peter cry for help?

Peter did the right thing. Peter called out to Jesus for help. “Quickly Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him.”

4. God says in His Bible, “Anyone who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. Such a man should not expect to get anything from the Lord” (James 1:6-7). Have you ever been afraid, doubting that God would care for you?

Many people feel afraid of something. Sometimes, when people feel afraid, they begin to think that no one will care for them, and that not even God will watch over them. Such fears come from doubt, and doubt is a sin.

5. How does Jesus’ response to Peter’s prayer in this story help and encourage you to pray boldly and without doubt?

Jesus did not let Peter fall. In the same way, Jesus will never let you fall. Even though you might feel afraid, as Peter felt afraid, Jesus will stay with you always. Jesus gives you eternal life in Baptism, and this eternal life cannot be taken away. Even if you should die, you shall without doubt live forever. This promise from God is powerful. This promise will make you able to keep the Second Commandment by praying without doubt, knowing that God will hear and care for you.

God wants us to pray to Him without doubting. That is, He wants us to call upon Him when we are in trouble, and also to trust that He will not fail to deliver us from our troubles and sorrows. Just as Jesus saved Peter, He will also save you from the things that you fear, bringing you at last into His heavenly home, safe and secure!

This is what God says to you in His Bible: “When he calls Me, I will answer him, be with him in trouble, rescue him, and honor him. With a long life I will satisfy him and have him drink his fill of My salvation” (Psalm 91:15-16).