

Have Faith

As we talk about definitions of “faith”, it can sometimes be a confusing term. We want to make sure our faith is in the right thing—in the trustworthiness of God alone. But how does that play out in practical daily life?

There are a lot of conflicting distractions and directions that tug at our attention, especially in times of transition. One of the great principles of faith is that it looks forward to promises to come. Faith is not based on what we do or what we see, but who God is. This lesson helps to remind us that our hope is fixed on God, and that He is our compass and guide no matter what. We get anxious or confused, but He is our ultimate audience.

So, what is faith? We have talked about it a little bit, but what does faith mean, according to the Bible? It means we are looking forward to something that has not happened yet. If you were willing to follow directions without knowing the prize, it means you had faith that whatever was coming at the end was worth it. If you trust and hope in something in the future, you have faith that it will be something valuable. Can you think of a time in your life when you had to have faith??

Faith isn't always easy! It isn't always comfy, and it doesn't always seem like things are working out for us in this life. Sometimes we worry over life's details. Maybe it's school, or upcoming things, or sports, or friends, or any number of potential fears. It can be easy to lose sight of what is important. This story remind us that God has wonderful things planned. We cannot always see them, but we trust His promises. When we “fix our eyes on Jesus”, it means we remember what He has already done for us, and rejoice in it. Faith allows us to focus on God, rather than our troubles. This can be easier said than done, to be sure. But think about what He has done, and what He will do. God loves us and provides for us. We can thank Him for that. We can ask for His help. And we can rest assured that His promises will come true, because He is faithful!

Our Story.....

Jesus and his disciples had been around crowds of people for a long time. Now Jesus wanted to spend a little time alone so he could pray. In the evening he told his disciples to get in the boat and row over to the other

side of the lake (which is called the Sea of Galilee). The disciples set out in the boat and Jesus went up to the mountainside to pray.

The water in the lake was rough. The disciples had to row very hard. Between 3 and 6 o'clock in the morning they had only rowed to the middle of the lake. Jesus had finished praying and he looked out on the lake and saw them trying to row. (Actually, this was amazing that Jesus could see out in the lake even though it was dark).

Jesus began walking out on the water as if it was dry land. He did not swim or tread water. He just walked on top of the water but did not sink. What do you think the disciples thought when they watched him walking by?

You guessed it. The disciples were very afraid. They did not think it was Jesus walking by. They thought it was a ghost floating by. They began to scream.

When Jesus heard them he called out to his friends, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Peter couldn't believe his ears. That didn't sound like a ghost. That sounded like Jesus. Maybe it was a trick. Peter decided to test the ghost.

"Lord, if it's you," Peter called out, "tell me to come to you on the water."

Then he heard Jesus' voice, "COME."

Peter got out of the boat and began walking toward Jesus. He was walking on the water just like Jesus was. Then Peter started looking around and noticing all of the waves and wind. He stopped thinking about Jesus and started thinking about the water. Then Peter began to sink in the water.

He yelled out to Jesus, "Lord, save me."

Jesus reached down and caught Peter. "Peter," he said, "why did you start doubting me? You should always have faith in me."

Then Peter and Jesus stepped into the boat and the storm immediately died down. Everyone in the boat worshipped Jesus. They knew it was very important to always have faith in Jesus.

The disciples had been with Jesus for quite a while. They had seen Him do amazing things. And now, Jesus was walking on the water to them! Peter had faith in Jesus' power, and so he climbed out of the boat and walked on the water

with Jesus. But then Peter took his eyes off of Jesus. He looked at the big waves splashing around him. In that moment, Peter forgot that Jesus is bigger than anything—even the wind and the waves.

We may shake our heads and think Peter was foolish for sinking in the water. But we do the same thing in our lives. We worship Jesus and try to follow Him. But then problems come—and they seem so big! We take our eyes off Jesus and the problems grow bigger and bigger. We begin to sink down into the stormy waters of our troubles. But Peter called out to Jesus, saying, “Lord, save me!” And Jesus reached out and pulled Peter out of the raging waters.

He will do the same for us. We can call out to Jesus anytime, anywhere, about anything. And He is there. He wants to be with us and help us through the storms of life. So next time you feel you are 'drowning' in the things around you, HAVE FAITH. God is always with you and he will get you thru.



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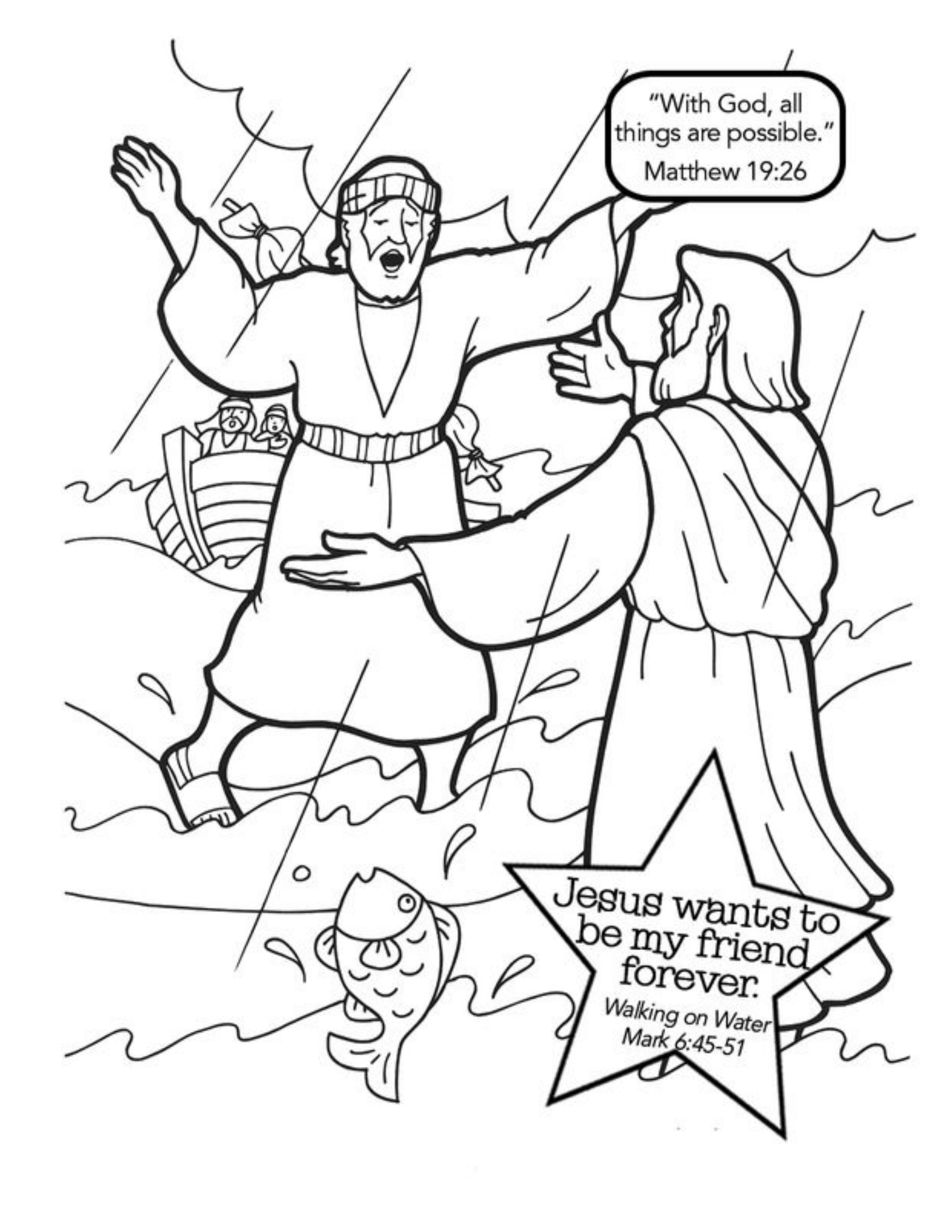
F A I T H

BE BIGGER

than your

f e a r





"With God, all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26

Jesus wants to
be my friend
forever.

Walking on Water
Mark 6:45-51

Walking on Water Craft

Supplies:

large blue paper

markers or crayons

paper for tracing feet & waves
(plain to decorate or designed)

glue

scissors



Instructions:

Cut out paper for waves and glue to the blue paper.

Trace feet onto paper

Cut out feet and glue on top of waves

Color or decorate as wanted

OPTIONAL:

Glue blue paper onto a larger piece of paper and decorate with the words "Have Faith in God"