



Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship North Carolina

# FAITH FAMILY TALKS

CBFNC offers this resource from the CBF Children's Ministry Network to our state fellowship to provide families weekly spiritual conversation starters. Our hope is that this resource empowers parents to have more faith-filled conversations at home.

*Listen. Talk. Go.*

October 2022

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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 2

#### Scripture

Matthew 14:22-23 (NRSV) **Peter Walks on Water**

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

#### Listen.

Open your Bible and read Matthew 14:22-23 with your family.

I love the miracle stories of Jesus! Miracles are impossible for humans to do. Miracles show us how special and holy Jesus was and is! This story is one of the miracle stories of Jesus. Throughout the month of October, we are going to FOCUS, or pay attention to, this story and things we can learn from it. For today, let's FOCUS on the miracle. Jesus walked on water! Not only did he walk on water, but he walked on super choppy seas. The wind was blowing the water was crashing about and Jesus - it seems very calmly - walked out on the sea towards the disciples.

No matter how hard we try, we cannot walk on water! Go ahead, try it with your family! You can jump into water, you can splash in water, you can even stand in water. But no matter how hard you try, we cannot walk ON water. We must have the ground, the bottom of a pool, or another solid surface underneath of us. So, the fact that Jesus walked on water was incredible! Jesus did something impossible! Jesus didn't walk on water just to show off.



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### WEEK OF OCTOBER 2, *cont'd.*

In fact, I don't think Jesus was trying to show off at all. Jesus was showing the disciples how special he is. Jesus was showing the disciples that Jesus is God's Son and worth their FOCUS and attention, no matter what else was going on around them.

#### Talk.

- What would you think, feel, or do if you saw Jesus coming towards you walking on water?
- When you see something incredible, why do you focus on it more?
- What do you think God is teaching us in this story?

*God, we thank you for Jesus! We thank you for the miracles Jesus did while he was on earth that show us little bits of your awesome-ness. Help us to FOCUS on your awesomeness this week. Amen..*

#### Go.

Try to walk on water! Find a pool or tub and try as hard as you can to walk on water. Can you do it? No! Talk about why it is so special that Jesus walked on water. If you're feeling extra creative, try to act out the story together as a family. Have someone pretend to be Jesus. Have someone else be Peter and have someone else be the disciples in the boat.





### WEEK OF OCTOBER 9

#### Listen.

Open your Bible and read Matthew 14:22-23 with your family.

Jesus did a whole lot of awesome things while he was here on Earth. He taught people about God's love. He performed miracles, including walking on water, healing the sick, turning water into wine, and more! In fact, this story of Jesus walking on water follows the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 in Matthew. He had just spent the day teaching lots and lots of people on a mountainside where people were, of course, getting hungry. So, Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish from a little boy into enough food – well, more than enough food, actually – to feed more than 5,000 people.

After all the excitement of feeding 5,000 and being around a huge crowd of people and before Jesus' miracle of walking on water, Jesus does something incredible. However, this special thing he does is much less flashy than his miracles. As we see in verses 21-22, Jesus sent the disciples and crowds away and went up to the mountain by himself to pray. It is interesting that Jesus took a pause and spent time in prayer! I mean, did Jesus NEED to stop and pray? I would argue, YES! Jesus was taking time to talk with and listen to God – something we NEED to stop and do as well! This week let's FOCUS on prayer. Prayer is FOCUSing on God – talking with God, but also listening to God, which Jesus shows us how to do.

#### Talk.

- Why do you think Jesus went alone to the mountainside to pray?
- Do you find it easy or hard to stop and FOCUS on God?
- What do you think God is teaching us in this story?

*God, we thank you for Jesus! We thank you that Jesus teaches us the importance of prayer and talking with and listening to you. Help us to find ways to FOCUS on you through prayer this week. Amen.*

#### Go.

Set up a prayer space in your home. This may be a corner of a bedroom. It could be hidden in a closet. It could even be a blanket or towel laid out in the living room. Be creative in making this space special. Maybe you put a few comfy pillows and blankets in this space. Maybe you hang a drawing of Jesus or your favorite Scripture verse in this space. Make this a special place where you can FOCUS on God. Take a few minutes as a family and pray together. Remember that part of prayer is listening, so be sure to leave some quiet time to listen for God. Encourage your family to pause and re-visit your prayer space anytime – alone or all together.





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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 16

#### Listen.

Open your Bible and read Matthew 14:22-23 with your family.

Have you ever experienced a really big storm – like a really bad thunderstorm or a hurricane? During a storm, the wind blows fast and hard; the rain is pounding down; and it can be pretty scary! Can you imagine being on a boat in a sea during a really big storm? Not only would you have howling wind and loud, fast rain, but the water in the sea would be crashing all around you. Your boat would be shaking and rolling in the wind and you would probably have a really hard time standing still. In fact, you'd probably have to grab hold of the sides of the boat! It sounds pretty scary to me!

The disciples were in the boat, far from land and the wind was blowing. They were so FOCUSED on the storm that they couldn't FOCUS on Jesus who was walking towards them on the water. In fact, at first, they thought Jesus was a ghost! It wasn't until Jesus told them who he was "It is I" that the disciples could FOCUS on who was coming towards them – Jesus. The disciples were FOCUSing on the wrong things. They were focused on the storm, or the difficult things around them. When Peter starts to sink, it is because he is FOCUSED on the strong wind and he becomes afraid! They were not FOCUSED on Jesus. Sometimes in our lives, it is so easy for us to FOCUS on the wrong things. Maybe we are focused on being the best or being the coolest. Maybe we are focused on making sure everyone else is happy. Maybe we are focused on getting whatever we want. In some cases, maybe we are even focused on good things – like helping others or doing good things. Surely the disciples were focused on staying alive and making it back to shore, right? But it wasn't until they were FOCUSED on Jesus that Jesus was able to do something incredible – save Peter and calm the storm, which eventually got the disciples back to shore safely.

#### Talk.

- What does it mean to FOCUS on Jesus?
- What things do you tend to FOCUS on instead of Jesus? Are they good things or bad things?
- What do you think God is teaching us in this story?

*God, we thank you for Jesus! Thank you that Jesus can do incredible things when we FOCUS on him. Help us to FOCUS on Jesus instead of the wrong things. Amen.*





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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

WEEK OF OCTOBER 16, *cont'd*

### Go.

Find a Magnifying Glass or a pair of binoculars. Find objects around your house to FOCUS on. With the binoculars, items will be blurry until you change the focus and really pay attention to the object. With a magnifying glass, the items will be blurry until you move the magnifying glass to the right spot to focus on the object. Focusing takes intentionality. We have to decide to do it. It often doesn't come without effort. Talk together about ways you can intentionally focus on Jesus as a family.



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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 23

#### Listen.

Open your Bible and read Matthew 14:22-23 with your family.

What does it mean to trust someone? Hopefully, in your family, you can name several adults that you can trust. Trust means you know you can count on someone. Trust means you know someone is reliable. Trust means you know that someone is there for you. At this point in the gospel of Matthew, the disciples had been through a lot with Jesus. They had listened to his preaching and teaching. They had seen Jesus do miracles. They had been with him when he was asked questions by leaders and other teachers. They had plenty of time to FOCUS on Jesus through his ministry. By this point, you would think that the disciples would have reached a point where they could trust Jesus.

When Peter sees Jesus coming, he seems somewhat sure that the person walking towards him is Jesus, but still is not trusting one hundred percent. He says, "If it's you, Lord, tell me to come to you on the water." And Jesus invites Peter to get out of the boat and walk on the water towards Jesus. And what's incredible is that in the midst of the windy sea and water likely crashing all around him, Peter began to walk on the water! Peter must have been FOCUSed on Jesus. In order to walk towards Jesus, he'd have to be looking at him, right? But, then, when Peter notices the strong winds around him, he stops FOCUSing on Jesus and begins FOCUSing on the storm. Peter begins to sink! When Peter begins to sink, he cries out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!" You see, Peter knew and trusted deep down that Jesus could (and would!) save him, but he took his focus off Jesus and began to focus on the difficulties around him.

#### Talk.

- What ways has God shown you that God can be trusted?
- How do you think Peter felt throughout this story?
- What do you think God is teaching us in this story?

*God, we thank you for the story of Peter showing us what it looks like to trust Jesus. Help us to FOCUS on you and trust you, especially when life is difficult. Amen.*

#### Go.

Do some trust falls as a family. Have one family member fall backwards into the arms of the rest of your family. Talk about what it means to trust one another to catch you. Sometimes trust is easy and sometimes trust is hard. Talk about people your family can trust. Talk about what it means for your family to trust Jesus.



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## FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 30

#### Listen.

Open your Bible and read Matthew 14:22-23 with your family.

If your adults asked you to make your bed, how quickly could you do it? Could you do it in 15 minutes? 10 minutes? 5 minutes? 30 seconds? If you are in the kitchen, it would take you longer to make your bed because you'd have to travel all the way to your bedroom first. But, if you were already in your bedroom, you could make your bed much faster because you are already there to get started!

When Peter cries out "Lord, save me!" the passage tells us that Jesus IMMEDIATELY reached out his hand and caught him. Jesus was right there! Jesus didn't have to travel from the edge of the sea to reach Peter. Jesus was right there with Peter! Now, Peter briefly took his FOCUS off Jesus and began to focus on the storm around him. But, when Peter re-FOCUSed on Jesus, he saw Jesus. He knew he could trust Jesus to save him because he could see Jesus was right there beside him still standing calmly on the water while Peter was sinking! Without hesitating, Peter cried out to Jesus and Jesus IMMEDIATELY reached down and pulled Peter out of the water. Sometimes we forget that Jesus is right beside us. Jesus is with us all the time! When we need Jesus, all we need to do is call out to him.

#### Talk.

- When are times that you need Jesus?
- What do you think Peter was thinking throughout this story?
- What do you think God is teaching us in this story?

*God, thank you for always being with us. Help us to remember that you are always here and that we can call on you whenever we need you. Amen.*

#### Go.

Sometimes it is hard to remember that Jesus is here with us, especially when we can't see Jesus. Use a phone to call a friend or family member to catch up! Even though your friend or family member is not physically with you in your house, they still answer when you call. Jesus is always with you and wants to hear from you as well!

*Written by Robin Priddy, children's pastor at Johns Creek Baptist Church in Alpharetta, Georgia. She began serving at Johns Creek in November of 2020 (yes, a big Covid move!) after serving as associate pastor for Children and Activities in Waco, Texas for 8 years.*



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