

WALKING ON THE WAVES

Jesus had just finished feeding the five thousand. After He sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee in their boat, He went back up onto the mountainside to pray.

While the disciples' boat was far from shore, the strong wind caused the waves to pound against it.¹



¹The Sea of Galilee was notorious for sudden gusting winds and dangerous storms.



Matthew 14:25-33

Shortly before dawn² Jesus went out to them,

walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

How did the disciples react when

they saw Jesus? What did Jesus say to help them with their fear?

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

"Come," he said.

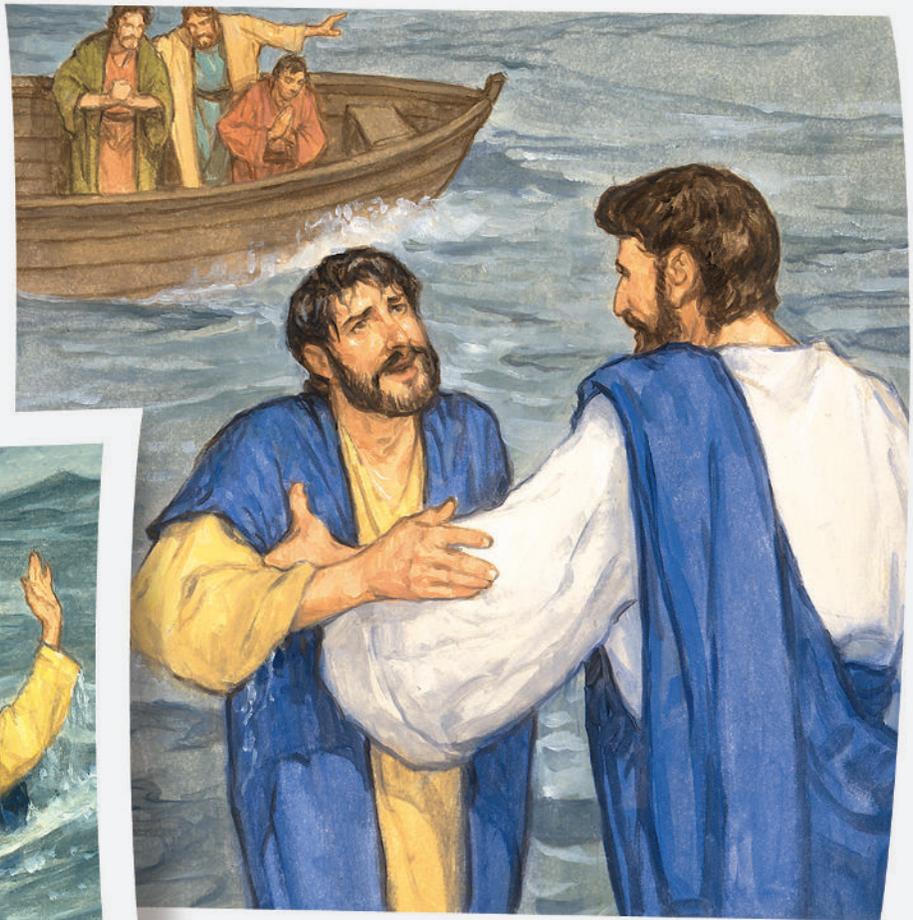
Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

What does Peter's statement to Jesus tell you about him? What do you think Peter needed when he walked on the water? Why did he begin to sink?

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"



²Between three and six A.M.



And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.³

Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

What did Jesus say to Peter? How do you think Peter felt about Jesus' words?

Peter took a real step of faith when he left the boat, but his fear caused him to doubt. Later, though, Peter became one of the founders of Jesus' church as his faith grew stronger.

How can we develop a strong faith in Jesus?

³Jesus demonstrated that He is Lord of all by calming the storm.