

## Activities for "Walking on water" - Matthew 14:22-33, (9<sup>th</sup> August)

### Floating and sinking

Fill a bowl, bath, or paddling pool with water. Collect up some objects and guess if they will float or sink. You could try natural objects such as leaves, feathers, stones, pinecones, flowers, and sticks. Or you could use objects from round the house - wooden and metal spoons; (waterproof) toys; containers made of wood, metal, or plastic; pieces of paper or cardboard; a doll or play figure. Test out your predictions. Do people float or sink in water? Could a person stand on top of water and not sink? How amazing would it be if someone could do that?

### Make a model

Decorate a piece of card with crayons, paint, or paper to look like water. Cut a long slit in the middle of the card, keeping well away from the edges. Draw a picture of Jesus on some card (or print off the picture in the resources section and stick it on card). Tape a straw or stick to the back and thread it through the slit. Now move Jesus backwards and forwards to show him walking on water.

### Watery footprints

Fill a paddling pool with water. Can you walk on the water? Try it. If you can't, instead make wet footprints on a path or long piece of paper. Can a second person make footprints in exactly the same place? In the story, Peter tries to copy Jesus, walking on water like him.

### Questions game

Use questions to highlight how Jesus is the same and yet different from us. For each question, you could run to one side of the room for 'yes' and the other side for 'no'. Can a baby eat? Can we eat? Could Jesus eat? (All yes). Can a baby speak/walk? Can we speak/walk? Could Jesus speak/walk? (No for baby, yes for others.) Can a baby walk on water? Can we? Could Jesus? (Only Jesus could.) Can you think of other things that only Jesus can/could do?

### Floating prayers

Print out a prayer boat from the resources section or draw your own. Cut it out. In the centre write a prayer or draw a picture of someone you would like to pray for. Fold in the edges, like the petals of a flower. Drop the prayer boat into a bowl of water, bath, or paddling pool. The edges should unfold as the prayer boat floats, revealing your prayer. Jesus told Peter not to look at the wind and waves but to focus on Jesus. Then he could walk on water. When we pray, we also need to focus on Jesus. Jesus is amazing and can do miracles like walking on water.

