
WORSHIP @ HOME

KEEP THE FAITH



Preparing for worship:

Christian meditation music for stillness: <http://www.viewpure.com/fOB73qRVGJs?start=0&end=0>

The Greeting:

ALL: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN'.

Our tradition is to cross ourselves as this is said.

Opening prayer and lighting the candle:

Father God, help us to put you first every day and in every situation so the light from our flame grows tall, sending out more light to others.

ALL: Amen

Bible Reading:

A reading from Matthew Chapter 4 verses 22-33.

Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it. Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus came to the disciples,

walking on the water. When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost!' they said, and screamed with fear. Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Courage!' he said. 'It is I. Don't be afraid!' Then Peter spoke up. 'Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you.' 'Come!' answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. 'Save me, Lord!' he cried. At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, 'What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?' They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. 'Truly you are the Son of God!' they exclaimed.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A message:

How do we react under pressure? Peter had spent a considerable amount of time with Jesus and was committed to His vision. He had chosen to follow Jesus. He had just seen Jesus feed the 5000 and should have been very confident. So, when he sees Jesus walking towards him all should be well. However, Peter found himself in a challenging situation. The storm was breaking over him. This was the darkest of hours, just before dawn; a time when life situations seem more overwhelming. **How do you react to such times?**

Peter makes it worse. '*Lord, if it is really you*', Peter replied, '*order me to come out on the water with you*'. Why? What was this going to achieve? How will this have made the situation better? Peter made a wrong decision, a reaction with no thought that simply complicated things further! We all do this under pressure sometimes. For example. the sharp word that was not helpful, the text sent in haste, the lie told to try and cover something up.

When Peter became afraid, he began to sink. Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. '*What little faith you have*' he said, '*why did you doubt?*' We all have to place our faith, our belief, in something and having made that commitment we have to trust that we have made the right choice when the going gets tough. If not, what did that commitment mean in the first place? Peter made a mistake and he was to make many more, but he is still the one that Jesus use to found the Christian Church on!

From the Bible we learn that we need Jesus to save the situation and ourselves under pressure? Returning to the beginning of our reading, we find a dramatic revelation of how God cares for us in difficult situations. Jesus spends time praying alone, and surely he

includes you by name. He knows where you are, what is happening to you, and when you need help. So Jesus comes close and speaks to you: 'Take heart, it is I; do not be



afraid'. **Can you hear him in the roaring of the wind or are you fixated by the waves breaking over your little boat?** The disciples in their later trials would have remembered what happened on the lake; how Jesus reached out and caught the drowning Peter; how he got into their boat and how somehow his presence made the wind die down. Jesus does the same for you and me, but less dramatically.

Activity (optional for younger primary school age siblings):

'Peter walks on water' mini book and colouring sheets have been provided for younger members of the family to use throughout the week. They can learn and retell the story and be encouraged by its message. Jesus is the Son of God. Trust in Him.

A time to reflection:

Reflect together on the meaning of the quotes:

'Jesus is there in the storm with us. He is not stopping the waves from breaking over us, but he is there to hold us and ride the waves'. Anon

'When you come out of the storm, you will not be the same person who walked in, That is what this storm is about.' Haruki Murakami, *Kafka on the shore*

'You cannot calm the storm, so stop trying. What you can do is calm yourself. The storm will pass.' Timber Hawkeye

If you were Peter would you have got out of the boat?

How do you react under pressure?

What role does faith play in your life?

How can we share this faith with others during difficult times?

Listen to Walking Water <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OLwCk4Jw-4> for an uplifting end to your time of reflection.

Closing prayer:

Heavenly Father,

During difficult times, help us fix our eyes on Jesus and on serving him and those in need around us. When we lack confidence and assurance reach out to us. May we be reassured that you are not looking for perfect disciples, but faithful followers. You are a forever light in any darkness. Help us to trust in you always. Help us keep the faith.

ALL: Amen.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. Amen.