

# 7 SIGNS

JESUS REVEALED IN  
THE BOOK OF JOHN

## SESSION 5: JESUS WALKS ON WATER



In this series, we discover seven signs of Jesus in the gospel of John. Water turns into wine, one lunch feeds 5000 hungry bellies, people are healed, and a man four-days-dead is raised to life! Are these random miraculous acts, or do they point to something more? Together we will explore what these miracles tell us about who Jesus is. Today, Jesus walks on water.



## Share

- Have you ever been on a small boat? What was it like?
- What is the most dramatic weather you've experienced?
- Have you ever mistaken something in the dark, then realised what it really was?



## Pray

Before we read today's Scripture, let's pray together.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would speak to us through God's Word.



## Read

Read John 6:16-22.

*You might like to read it in a couple of different translations.*

### **Jesus Walks on the Water**

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup> where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. <sup>18</sup> A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." <sup>21</sup> Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

<sup>22</sup> The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone.

(New International Version)

### **Jesus Walks on Water**

<sup>16</sup> That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. <sup>17</sup> But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. <sup>18</sup> Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. <sup>19</sup> They had rowed three or four miles when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, <sup>20</sup> but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!"

<sup>21</sup> Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!

### **Jesus, the Bread of Life**

<sup>22</sup> The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them.

(New Living Translation)



## Share

- As a group, have a go at retelling this story in your own words.
- The Sea of Galilee is well known for its sudden, violent windstorms that quickly make the lake dangerous. Since the disciples were rowing toward Capernaum, they were heading into the wind during the storm, so they were not making much progress.<sup>1</sup> How do you think they were feeling at this point?
- In verse 19, Jesus walks towards the disciples on the dark, stormy sea. They don't know it is Jesus. What do you imagine they were thinking?
- What stands out to you most about Jesus' words: "It is I; don't be afraid"?<sup>2</sup>
- Knowing Jesus is present calms the disciples' fears, and they invite Jesus into the boat with them. Can you think of a time when you've gone through something scary and felt calmed by Jesus' presence with you? What do you think it is about Jesus' presence that brings peace?
- In verses 20 and 21, the disciples realise it is Jesus walking towards them and they welcome him into their boat. As a result, they immediately arrive at their destination. Why do you think John includes this detail?
- The disciples were putting in a lot of effort to try to get to their destination, but when they invite Jesus in, they arrive there immediately. Can you think of times when you tried to solve a problem in your own strength, rather than asking Jesus for help?
- Can you think of a time when you've asked Jesus into your situation and you've experienced a change in circumstance? Do you have any circumstances at the moment that you could invite Jesus into?
- What does Jesus walking on the water tell you about his power or authority?
- What might this event reveal about Jesus' relationship to creation?
- What else does this sign show you about Jesus?
- What is your personal 'takeaway' from this story today?

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<sup>1</sup> Merrill C. Tenney, [Enduring Word Bible Commentary John Chapter 6](#)

<sup>2</sup> John 6:20 (NIV)





## Pray

*Spend some time listening to the Holy Spirit in silence.*

*Then share something you would like prayer for and pray as a group.*

## Notes

[illegible]