Jesus Walks on Water

(VBS—multiple puppeteers) Matthew 14:22

	[two or more puppets play the "Guys"- the apostles - and take turns talking]
Jesus	Okay, guys. I need a little time to pray. I'll meet you on the other side of the lake.
Peter	Okee dokee Jesus. We'll sail across in this boat and catch you later! (*Peter and disciples jump into a "boat" and sail off as Jesus exits – mime getting in and keep puppets held tightly together*) Alrighty then. Well guys, here we are, sailing along. Isn't it great being disciples of Jesus? He is so cool, isn't He?
Guys	Yeah. He's got the message and He is the MAN.
Peter	Yeah. Gee it's getting awfully windy out here, isn't it?
Guys	Yeah. The waves are getting really big, too.
Peter	I'm scared.
Guys	We are, too. (*high squeaky voice*)
Peter	I wish Jesus was here. (*Jesus appears*)
Guys	Hey, what the… I can't believe my EYES!!!! Look!!! (*pointing at Jesus*)
Peter	Whoa! This is really freaky, guys. Stay behind me.
Guys	Yeah. It looks like a ghost walking on the water! (*trembling and hiding*)
Jesus	Hey, guys! It's me! It's Jesus!
Guys	(*they look at each other uncertainly, look back at Jesus*) Oh yeah? Prove it.
Jesus	Okay. Like how?
Peter	(*they all turn to Peter*) Like… let me walk across the water, like you're doing, which would be SO COOL… and if I could do THAT, then I'd believe it was really Jesus out there and not just some weird dude on water skis or something.
Jesus	Alright. Come on out of the boat, Simon. Come walk on water! It's fun!
Peter	(*hesitating*) Are you sure I can just step out of the boat?
Jesus	Yes! Jump in. Trust me. (*holding out his hands*)
Guys	(*chanting*) Simon! Simon! Walk on water! Simon! Simon! Walk! On! Water!

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Peter	Okee dokee. (*gingerly stepping out – sees that the water holds him*) Oh COOL! This is totally awesome! Hey guys! Look at me! (*dances a little*) I am walking on water! In the middle of the lake! (*he looks down at his feet*) On very deep, cold water… (*getting scared, starting to shake*) with really big waves… and… AAAAHHHHH! (*starts to sink*) Jesus! Save me! I'm sinking!
Guys	(*Jesus lifts him up – the other disciples start cracking up and making fun of him*) Man, you looked so funny! You were like, "Aaah! Save me! Save me!"
Peter	(*clutching Jesus' head*) Oh, yeah. You guys come on out here and try it. It's not as easy as it looks.
Jesus	(*slightly muffled*) Simon. Let go of my face. You're going to be okay.
Peter	Sorry Jesus. (*uncovers Jesus' face*)
Guy	Hahahaha! Look at him! He's scared like a big BABY!!! Hahahahaha!
Jesus	Alright, cut it out, guys. Simon did a really brave thing and I didn't see any of YOU trying it. (*he notes their silence*) Okay, then. Come on Simon. Here you go. Back in the boat. Now, what have we learned here, today? Anybody?
Guys	Uhhh… (*shuffling, avoiding answering*)
Peter	Well, I guess I should have trusted you more, Lord.
Jesus	I am ***so*** proud of you, Simon. You answered correctly. Next time you'll do better. (*pats him on the back*)
Peter	Next time!? Wow. Thanks, Jesus. You always make me feel a lot better when I goof up.
Jesus	It's okay, buddy. Okay, we've finally reached land. Everybody off the boat! That's it. Now, let me ask you all something. Some people are saying that because I do miracles and go around teaching about God, that perhaps I'm John the Baptist come back from the dead. Others are saying I'm one of the old prophets. Who do you say that I am?
Peter	You are the Christ! The Messiah! The Son of the Living God!
Jesus	Bingo!!
Guys	(*all together, overlapping*) You're "Bingo?" Wow, that's weird. No, he doesn't mean HE's bingo, He means He likes to PLAY bingo! Hey, great idea! It's fun, it's challenging, it's a great way to win money!!!
Jesus	No, no, no. Not THAT kind of bingo! What I meant to say is that Simon got it RIGHT! He is correct. And nobody on this earth gave him the right answer. It was my Father in heaven who showed him that I am the Messiah, the Son of God.
Guys	Is that right, Simon? God showed you?

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Peter	I just ***knew*** it. It was in my heart.
Guys	Wow.
Peter	Jesus, I have a question for you.
Jesus	Yes, Simon?
Peter	The guys were really making fun of me, before. It hurt my feelings.
Jesus	Yes?
Peter	How many times should I forgive people that hurt me? Once? Twice?
Jesus	You should forgive them as many times as they are sorry. Well? What do you say, boys?
Guys	We're sorry, Simon. Yeah, sorry about the mean cracks we made.
Peter	I forgive you.
Guys	Gee thanks! Yeah, that was really nice of you, Simon. Yeah, cool.
Jesus	Good job, Simon. And by the way, I have a new name for you.
Guys	Bingo! Bingo! Bingo!
Jesus	No. Gee wiz, guys. Would you FORGET about bingo? I wish I had never said that word.
Guys	Sorry, Jesus. We really thought we had the answer right THAT time.
Jesus	Simon Son of John, fisherman, friend and apostle, I hereby rename you Peter, which means "rock," and on this rock I will build my Church.
Peter	(*Peter looks around, the disciples all look at each other, Peter looks at Jesus*) Are you, like, giving me a really important job?
Jesus	Yes, Peter, I am. And it's a tough job. I'm going to expect a lot of you. After I am arrested and killed, you will be the head man.
Peter	Wait a minute! Wait just a dog-gone minute! I will ***not*** allow you to be killed! I will fight for you! I will hit 'em with the left! (*throws an air-punch*) Hit 'em with the right! (*punch*) I'll bonk them right on the head, I'll pulverize 'em, I'll murderize 'em, I'll… (*jumps around doing martial-arts moves, funny noises…*) Hyaaaahhh!!!
Jesus	Peter! Knock it off. You are WAY off base. Don't ***ever*** do that again!!!
Peter	What, Master? What did I do?
Jesus	Don't ***ever*** try to go against my Father's plan. (*Peter is silent and droops his head*)
Peter	Oopsie.

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Jesus	Listen up, everybody. I am going to die before I rise in glory. It's part of what I came here to do. (*the disciples all shake their heads in confusion, including Peter*) Come on. Let's go eat our Passover Meal. Who's hungry?
Guys	Me! Me! Me! Yeah, let's go! Let's eat! I'm starving! (*general hubbub as they all exit*)

The End

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