



Rescued from Doubt

Lesson Overview

Week of June 27

1 Life Need:

Discuss what it means to look at Jesus or something else.

2 Bible Learning:

Study Jesus' miracle of walking on water.

Suggested Material:

■ *Adult Teacher's Resource Kit*: Poster and Reproducible Sheet—Faith in a Powerful Lord

3 Bible Application:

Comprehend how keeping your eyes on God strengthens your faith.

Suggested Material:

■ *Adult Teacher's Resource Kit*: Poster and reproducible sheet—The Stories of Estella and Porter

4 Life Response:

Maintain your gaze on the Lord.

Church/Home Theme:
We are the Body of Christ.

Lesson Focus:

Where are your eyes—on God or the wind and waves?

Lesson Scripture:

Matthew 14:22-33

Another Storm—Jesus had multiplied one little boy's humble lunch and fed over 5,000 people. After the astounding miracle, the disciples picked up 12 baskets full of leftovers. Jesus then commanded them to board a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida. He, instead, climbed up a mountain away from the people to spend time alone with His heavenly Father. Very early the next morning, the men found themselves in the middle of the lake in a violent storm. Important lessons were about to be learned: keep your focus on God instead of circumstances.

Previously, Jesus had been in the boat when a sudden storm arose on the sea. The Master had stood up and simply spoken the wind and waves into a calm sea. But now the men and the boat were about three miles from the shore—without the Savior in the boat. As the men desperately fought the strong winds, they suddenly they looked up and thought they saw Jesus walking on water—about to pass by the boat! Were they seeing a spirit? The sound of Jesus' voice answered their question: "It is I."

A Bold Disciple—Peter boldly trusted the Lord. If it was Him, Peter would walk on the sea to Jesus. Jesus beckoned Peter, and Peter climbed out of the human-made boat and placed his feet on a God-made body of water. He made his way toward Jesus with his eyes fixed on the Lord. Yet, Peter soon doubted. He focused on the rough waves all around, and they appeared more powerful than Jesus. Peter then began to sink, but he cried out for the Master to save him. Jesus quickly reached out and kept him from drowning. Why did Peter doubt? Jesus asked. Why did his focus become the raging sea? When the two of them climbed into the boat, the wind died down, and the disciples worshiped Jesus. Truly He is the Son of God!

When the Storms Rage—Peter's failure to continue his walk on the water gives us an excellent object lesson. When life gets challenging, where do we place our focus: on the troubling situation, or a faithful, never-failing God?

As Your Students Arrive

Prior to class, collect at least three pictures of people in various situations. Examples might include a person or people in a breathtaking natural setting, people on a main street of a town or city, and people on a farm or ranch. As students enter the classroom, ask them to indicate the first thing their eyes focus on in each picture.

Introduce the lesson by letting the class know that this week's

lesson teaches us that, as followers of Christ, we must keep our eyes on God.

Link to Last Week

Ask a few students to share if they reached out to Jesus for help this past week and what happened.

1 Life Need

Discuss what it means to look at Jesus or something else.

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Fifteen years and this was the thanks that Odell was going to get? Downsized?

The 60-year-old Odell was contemplating his fate at the newspaper. The rumors had been verified last week: five percent of the sales and business offices would be let go in three months.

Odell had witnessed some coworkers, around his age, who were laid off to save on the bottom line. Older employees typically amassed higher salaries, and some businesses found it more lucrative to fire them.

How would he find another job at his age? Although specific names had not been announced, Odell was fearful that his name would be on the termination list.

It took his granddaughter to challenge him and redirect his attention to Christ. Simone was over to the house, French braiding her grandmother's hair, when Odell began talking to Eloise about the dreaded terminations.

"Granddad," Simone had begun, "you don't know if your name is on the list. What have you always told us?"

"Do your best to follow the Lord. Keep your eyes on Him," continued Simone, "and the Lord will take care of you. Whatever's going to happen, the Lord's got you!"

"Amen," said Eloise. "Maybe Odell will listen to you."

The women were right. He had been in a constant state of turmoil and doubt. Odell repented for his worry and unbelief.

"I know you got me, God," he said.

1. What attracts you to the things you commonly look at?

2. When your eyes are on Jesus, what do you see?

3. How is your life when your eyes are not on Jesus?

LESSON FOCUS: Where are your eyes—on God or the wind and waves?

Form small groups to discuss **Questions 1, 2, and 3** in the study book.

For Question 1, class members might mention the following answers: They are beautiful to behold such as a majestic mountain or an artistic painting; they are enjoyable such as one's grandchildren or a well-made film; they are desirable such as an upscale house, a pricey sports car, or exquisite jewelry. Of course, God does not condemn such gazing, but it's when we become overly preoccupied with any of them that they can take our eyes off Jesus and doubts begin to cloud our judgment.

Question 2 encourages students to share what they see when they look at Jesus. Some may see Jesus as a humble person who is loving and forgiving; others may see Jesus as a wonderful teacher, who declares truths from God that are both easily understandable and yet profound; and still others may see Jesus as a merciful healer, whose ministry serves people in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. In fact, many will see a mix of these qualities when they look at Jesus.

Question 3 affords students the opportunity to relate their concerns when their gaze is not on Jesus. Examples might include being vulnerable to temptations or lacking God's counsel while making critical decisions about the direction of one's life.

2 Bible Learning

Study Jesus' miracle of walking on water.



Jesus knew that His disciples' faith had to be tested and strengthened as it was when a raging storm threatened their lives when they were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Even darker days would lie ahead for the apostles, but this

ordeal would lay a foundation for their faith, which would take the good news about Jesus throughout the world.

On the poster, read the fourth paragraph and note the photo of the stained glass window of Jesus walking on water.

BIBLE EXTRA

Peter's Call to Follow Jesus

Peter's call to follow Jesus came near the beginning of the Savior's public ministry. Peter's full realization of Jesus as the Messiah came near the end (Matt. 16:16-18). Here we see Peter's progression in understanding Jesus. The Messiah said that Peter was "blessed" (vs. 17). In other words, he was highly favored by God because his spiritual awareness did not come to him through any human agency or power, but from the heavenly Father.

In light of Peter's blessing, Jesus commented on his name. The Savior made a play on words when He declared, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church" (vs. 18). "Peter" translates the Greek word *petros*, which means "stone." "Rock" translates *petra*, which refers to a massive formation of bedrock.

In one sense, Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah is the "rock" upon which the church is built. In another sense, the Lord Jesus Himself is the "rock" (Acts 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 5:23; 1 Pet. 2:5-8).

JESUS DISMISSES THE CROWDS

Read Matthew 14:22-24, and highlight these key points as you discuss the Scripture:

- Following Jesus' miraculous feeding of five thousand people, Jesus had a specific lesson about faith that He wanted to impart upon His closest disciples, who would later spread this experience with all believers.
- After sending the growing crowds away, Jesus

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Jesus Dismisses the Crowds

Matthew 14:22-24, KJV

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

Matthew 14:22-24, NIV

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Matthew 14:22 leaves readers with the impression that there was a sense of urgency in Jesus' decision to dispatch the Twelve without any delay. It occurred right after Jesus miraculously fed over 5,000 men. This is in addition to an unspecified number of women and children (vss. 13-21).

It is unclear, though, from the text why Jesus wanted His disciples to enter their fishing vessel "immediately" (vs. 22) and head back to the other side of the lake. Meanwhile, Jesus dispersed the crowd and went up to a nearby mountainside by Himself to pray.

Jesus continued to pray well into night. While He was praying alone on the mountainside, the disciples found themselves in a severe storm in the middle of the lake. The Gospels of Mark and John also include accounts of this story. John 6:19 says that the disciples rowed about three or four miles. Mark 6:48 tells us that Jesus "saw the disciples straining at the oars"—struggling to control the vessel because of the winds that had swept down on the lake. As the turbulent waters "buffeted" (Matt. 14:24) the craft, the disciples were rowing unsuccessfully against the storm.



Further commentary on this Scripture passage can be found on pp. 42-43 in *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary: New Testament*.

told His disciples to step into a boat without Him and travel across the Sea of Galilee to the other side of the lake.

- He then hiked up a mountainside to pray alone in the evening.
- Meanwhile, a fierce storm raged against the boat full of Jesus' disciples, who were far from land.
- Both the waves and the wind threatened to capsize the boat and drown its occupants.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 4

Matthew 14:22 indicates that Jesus insisted the

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Perhaps they felt just as panic-stricken as they did during the earlier incident, which we studied in lesson 2.

4. *What did Jesus compel His disciples to do?*
5. *What did Jesus do once the Twelve had left?*

Jesus Walks on the Water

Matthew 14:25-27, KJV

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Unlike the previous storm recorded in Matthew 8:23-25, Jesus was not initially with the Twelve, but Mark 6:48 states that Jesus, though physically separated from the disciples, saw them "straining at the oars."

It was during the "fourth watch of the night" (between 3 A.M. and 6 A.M.; Matt. 14:25, KJV) that Jesus decided to reunite with the Twelve. Eventually, they could see Jesus coming closer to their boat. Not even the windstorm, waves, or gravity could deter Jesus. Yet, as He walked in their direction on the surface of the lake (vs. 26), it seemed as if He intended to "pass by them" (Mark 6:48).

At first, the Twelve did not recognize who was heading toward them. This is understandable given the predawn dim light, the fierce winds, and the disciples' terror-stricken emotional state. The Twelve concluded that Jesus must have been a "ghost" (Matt. 14:26).

Just as the disciples began screaming, Jesus responded with familiar words of encouragement. Not only were they

Matthew 14:25-27, NIV

²⁵Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Twelve get into their boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Indeed the verse says, "Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him." It's almost as if there was little time to spare in having them depart.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 5

First, Jesus sent the crowds away to their homes. Second, once they had departed, Jesus trekked up a nearby mountain. His intent was to spend some time alone in prayer with His heavenly Father (Matt. 14:23).

BIBLE EXTRA

Dividing the Nighttime in Watches

Matthew 14:25 in the KJV translates the Greek text as the "fourth watch of the night." In the first century A.D., the Romans divided the period from sunset to sunrise into four segments or "watches." This reflected the widespread practice of watchmen regulating their shifts by well-defined intervals.

The first segment extended from sunset to around 9:00 P.M. The second segment went from about 9:00 P.M. to around midnight. The third segment extended from about midnight to around 3:00 A.M. The fourth segment lasted from about 3:00 A.M. to sunrise. In contrast, Jesus' ethnic Jewish peers divided the nighttime into three "watches." The first segment extended from about sunset to around 10:00 P.M. The second segment went from about 10 P.M. to around 2:00 A.M. The third segment went from about 2:00 A.M. to sunrise.

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

Now read Matthew 14:25-27, and assess these following statements:

- Jesus had not abandoned His friends to a horrible fate.
- Amazingly, the Lord approached the boat, while walking on the turbulent sea.
- Full of fear, the disciples could not

believe that what they saw was really Jesus, but, instead, thought that they were seeing a ghost.

- Jesus immediately encouraged them not to be afraid but to be brave.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 6

The circumstance facing the Twelve was growing increasingly dangerous due to the windstorm that descended on the lake. Jesus, of course, was fully aware of the potential danger His disciples faced. So, sometime prior to sunrise, Jesus “went out to them” (Matt. 14:25).

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 7

By this point in time, Jesus’ disciples felt unsettled by the unpredictable circumstance they faced on the Sea of

BIBLE EXTRA

Biblical Guidance for Dealing with Doubt

Matthew 14:31 draws attention to Peter’s languishing faith in Jesus, along with the presence of the disciple’s “doubt.” The underlying Greek verb points to a lack of confidence, which in turn causes people to hesitate and waver in their actions. The decision to hold back can lapse into an outright refusal to follow God’s will in obedience.

That thought explains why James 1:6 tells believers, whenever they encounter hardships, to remain single-minded, rather than be fickle, in their devotion to the Lord. Otherwise, in the absence of rock-solid faith, God’s doubting children can quickly become divided in their loyalties. Metaphorically speaking, they are comparable to a “wave of the sea,” which is “blown and tossed” (NIV) by gale-force winds.

During those moments when believers struggle with doubt, they can find appropriate guidance in Scripture. For instance, Psalm 42:5 and 11 encourage God’s children, amid times of depression, to place their “hope” in the Lord. Likewise, Isaiah 40:29 reminds believers that God gives them “strength,” despite them feeling “weary,” and even when they struggle with weakness, the Redeemer supplies them with needed “power.” Moreover, Jude 1:22 encourages believers to show kindness and compassion to other Christians who are wavering in their faith.

Galilee. It’s to be expected then that, because of the terrifying situation, they were too distracted to recognize Jesus as He approached them. They became gripped with fear when they assumed a ghostlike entity was approaching their boat.

JESUS RESCUES PETER

While reading Matthew 14:28-33, note these important points in your class discussion:

- Peter’s intrepid response to Jesus’ astounding action and uplifting words was to ask the Lord to help him approach Him by also walking on the lake.
- Jesus granted Peter’s request by telling him to come to Him.
- For a while, Peter’s faith inspired him to get

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to “take courage” (vs. 27), but also no longer to “be afraid.” The reason is that Jesus had arrived to rescue them.

6. *What prompted Jesus to go to His disciples?*

7. *What caused the Twelve to become “terrified” (Matt. 14:26)?*

Jesus Rescues Peter

Matthew 14:28-33, KJV

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Matthew 14:28-33, NIV

²⁸“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹“Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³²And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Beginning in Matthew 14:28, the narrative shifts the focus to Peter and his request that Jesus allow him to walk on the water to the Savior. Jesus gave Peter permission to leave the vessel and make his way on the surface of the lake. Initially, the situation seemed to go well for Peter.

off the boat and step toward His Lord, but when he felt the wind, fear gripped him, and he commenced to submerge into the water.

- Peter then screamed for Jesus to save him, and Peter was close enough to the Lord for Him to catch Peter, while He confronted Peter for lacking faith and having doubts.

- As Jesus and Peter clambered onto the boat, the wind faded and the waves calmed down.

- Because of what they had just witnessed, the disciples on the boat then worshiped Jesus and declared that He is truly the Son of God.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 8

Peter went from feeling dread to relief as Jesus

headed toward the boat. This change in attitude also filled Peter with anticipation and courage. In fact, his confidence was so bolstered that he asked Jesus to give His disciple permission to step out onto the water to meet Him (Matt. 14:28).

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 9

Presumably at first, Peter was filled with joy that he was walking on the surface of the lake. Yet, when he realized that a windstorm continued to rage around him, his faith gave way to fear. And from there Peter quickly became panic-stricken.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 10

Unlike Peter, Jesus was not overcome with uncertainty and indecision. Rather, He responded to Peter in a firm and calm manner. First, Jesus quickly extended His hand to His disciple. Then, after rescuing Peter, Jesus admonished the leader of the Twelve for being filled with “doubt” (Matt. 14:31).

He stepped down from the boat and began walking on the water toward Jesus. How far he walked is not stated. However, the gale-force winds on the lake continued and eventually distracted Peter.

Suddenly, “doubt” replaced Peter’s “faith” (vs. 31). Indeed, Peter became so preoccupied with the strength of the wind that he became anxious. Peter’s apprehension was so intense that he shrieked, “Lord, save me!” (vs. 30).

At once, Jesus extended His hand and grabbed Peter. The Savior followed this action by censuring Peter for having so “little faith” (vs. 31). In fact, the phrase “little faith” is an expression Matthew uses several times to describe those who doubt Him (for example, 6:30; 8:28; 16:8). Rather than becoming faint-hearted, Peter should have remained courageous and resolute in drawing closer to Jesus. Once the two arrived at the boat, the previously violent wind immediately died down.

But the high point of the story is not Peter walking on water, nor the stilling of the storm. Matthew 14:33 tells us that the Twelve prostrated themselves in worship before Jesus. Such a response is remarkable given that the disciples were monotheistic Jews (believing in only one God).

Also, while the Twelve bowed down in adoration, they declared Jesus to be the “Son of God” (vs. 33). This title means that He, as the divine-human Messiah, exercised the power and authority of the Creator (Job 9:5-8; Ps. 77:19). It is unlikely the disciples understood everything there was to know about who Jesus was at this point.

The Synoptic Gospels all portray the disciples as coming to know Jesus in gradual steps. However, the disciples’ reaction foreshadows Peter’s later confession to Jesus that “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16). It is noteworthy that Jesus neither denied the statement nor rebuked His followers for making it.

8. In what way did Peter’s attitude change?

9. What caused Peter to suddenly panic?

10. How did Jesus respond to Peter’s plea for help?

WINDOW ON THE WORD

Doubt

Matthew 14:31 draws attention to Peter’s languishing faith in Jesus, along with the presence of the disciple’s “doubt.” The underlying Greek word points to a lack of confidence, which in turn causes people to hesitate and waver in their actions. The decision to hold back can lapse into an outright refusal to follow God’s will in obedience.

That thought explains why James 1:6 tells believers, whenever they encounter hardships, to remain single-minded, rather than be fickle, in their devotion to the Lord. Otherwise, in the absence of rock-solid faith, God’s doubting children can quickly become divided in their loyalties. Metaphorically speaking, they are comparable to a “wave of the sea,” which is “blown and tossed” by gale-force winds.

3 Bible Application

Comprehend how keeping your eyes on God strengthens your faith.

This step reminds students that just because we are God’s children, it doesn’t mean that we will never face winds and waves that try to shake our faith in Jesus. It does mean that we can overcome our fears during these trying times if we keep our eyes on our heavenly Father. If possible, photocopy this page and give instructions to each group. Make copies of the handout from the Resource Kit for the group using it.



Handout:

‘The Stories of Estella and Porter’

Read the stories, then talk about the ways you might relate to Estella and/or Porter. We know there are winds and waves that are far more horrendous than the daily troubles we often experience. Talk in the group about the most adverse calamities in your lives; that sharing may help others in the group.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Discussion Group

Read “The Wind and Waves of Adversity” and answer **Questions 11, 12, and 13**. There are disturbing mishaps such as becoming angry when someone sideswipes you or becoming afraid while being left alone in the dark and also alarming calamities such as being severely injured in a car accident or being betrayed by someone you love. A traumatic situation can rise out of nowhere to shake our faith in God such as hearing a diagnosis of a life-threatening illness, which was thought to be a mild ailment or being fired from a job that we thought was secure because of our many years of service to the company. It’s difficult to ignore these situations and look to Jesus instead, but He is there, ready to help us.

Skit: The Testing of Peter’s Faith

Write a script based on Matthew’s account of Jesus’ disciples caught in a storm at sea according to this week’s Scripture lesson. Next, choose one member of your group to direct the skit, and cast the roles of Jesus, Peter, and the other disciples. Read or perform the script before the class. Then, discuss how strong their faith would have been if they had been Peter and what lesson Jesus is imparting to His followers.

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The Wind and Waves of Adversity

A major difference between the wind and waves is that, although you can feel the effects of a wind, you can’t see it. Nevertheless, both can become catastrophic. The wind can become a deadly tornado, and waves can become a devastating tsunami.

Like the wind and waves, troubles can be either incomprehensible or perceptible. Usually troubles can be managed, but sometimes adversity can be truly terrifying, challenging our faith in God, and that’s when we most need to keep our eyes on Jesus to sustain our spiritual health and maintain our close relationship with God.

Some of the most serious adversities can be the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, or the discovery of a personal health issue. In those dark times, how can we keep our eyes on God? Of course, God doesn’t want us to ignore our troubles and pretend we’re fine and all is well in the world. What He does want is for us to place our trust in His love for us by focusing our eyes on our Savior Jesus, who is with us in our struggles.

It’s certainly not easy to keep our eyes on Jesus during our most troubling times, and, like Peter, there will be times when we will falter and fall. God, however, will not abandon us when we do. If we cry out for His help, He will reach down and pick us up. God is both patient and willing to help us, and He is also able to help us over and over again. Like King David, let us sincerely say in our hearts, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me” (Ps. 23:4, KJV).

11. *What kinds of waves in our lives can be so daunting we can’t take our eyes off them?*

12. *What wind of adversity in the past severely shook your faith?*

13. *When have you ignored the wind and waves and just trusted God?*

4 Life Response

Maintain your gaze on the Lord.

The Gospels clearly show that Peter felt a deep and abiding love for Jesus. Peter would follow the Lord wherever He went and do it happily, but at times Peter's faith in his Master would fail him. That is why Peter is so intriguing to us, because we can easily identify with him. Like Peter, our enthusiasm in our devotion to Christ has no bounds, and yet, at times our faith in Jesus can be weak causing us to be afraid and doubtful.

Ask your students to read "Rescued!" in

Comprehensive Bible Study, then think about doubts they are having about Jesus taking care of them in a current situation, with their eyes focusing more on the problem than Him. Ask them to pray about their "vision" now and this week. They can employ prayer, Bible study, devotions, and worship in order to focus on Jesus, as well as remember what He has taught us about Himself as we feel His presence.

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Rescued!

At times, fixing our gaze on Jesus can be extremely difficult. Those are times when sin, fears, and even preoccupation with daily issues can sway our vision. Those are times when we need to be particularly vigilant against anything that would draw our attention away from our Lord. Those are times when keeping our eyes on Jesus will increase and deepen our faith in God. Most importantly, as with Peter, the Lord will lift us up whenever we cry out to Him for help.

► Think of a "wave" you are experiencing that has you wondering if the Lord is there for you. Ask Him to help you keep your eyes on Him and give you faith that He will bring you through the waves.

KEY VERSE

And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? —Matthew 14:31, KJV

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

—Matthew 14:31, NIV

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Week of June 28 through July 4

(See *The Quiet Hour* and *Cross* devotionals on these passages.)

- Mon.** Isaiah 56:1-8—God Welcomes Foreigners.
- Tues.** Ruth 4:3-6, 13-15—Naomi's Sorrow Turns to Joy.
- Wed.** Leviticus 13:1-8—Symptoms and Treatment of Leprosy.
- Thurs.** 2 Kings 7:3-11—Lepers Share Their Good News.
- Fri.** John 4:39-42—Many Samaritans Believe in the Savior.
- Sat.** Luke 17:1-10—Doing What Needs to Be Done.
- Sun.** Leviticus 13:45-46; Luke 17:11-19—Cultivate Gratefulness for Acts of Healing.

End the lesson with a closing prayer. Ask God to continue to watch over your students and to remind them that their faith in Him will always be sustained by keeping their eyes on Jesus. Thank Him for the vision He has given them of His beloved Son, Jesus. And praise Him for navigating their lives through the wind and waves of adversity and providing them with an unparalleled pilot in our Lord Jesus.



As the class members are leaving, hand out copies of this week's *Power for Living*. Take or mail copies of *Lesson Leaflet* to those who couldn't be with you today, or send them to those you would like to join your class.

Before Teaching Next Week's Lesson

Before next week, read Leviticus 13:45-46 and Luke 17:11-19. Ask your students to think about how they express their gratitude to God for the many blessings He pours into their lives.