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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, August 13, 2017

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [Matthew 14:22-33](#) [ **Summary:** *Jesus And Peter Walk On Water* ]

**Supplies Needed:** Two plastic Easter eggs (putty eggs from the dollar store work well) and a clear container or glass with water in it.

**ASK** (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- I have a plastic egg here. Nothing is in it [*crack it open and show everyone; then close it again*]
- And I have a container with water here.
- I was thinking of putting this egg in the water. If I put this egg in the water, do you think it will float or sink? [*listen to their answers*]
- Thank you for sharing! Now, let's find out if the egg will float or sink! [*put egg in water*]
- Well look at that – it floats! [*leave the egg floating in the water, because you're going to come back to it*]

**TELL** (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- In today's scripture story, we hear about two people staying above the water, just like this one egg is staying above the water.
- Those two people were Jesus and Peter.
- The story starts with Jesus praying. And then, he goes out on the water and stays above it.
- When Peter sees what Jesus is doing, Peter wants to do it, too.
- So Jesus tells him to go ahead and give it a try.
- At first, Peter is able to stay above the water just like Jesus did.
- But then Peter looked at the waves and the storm and it made him afraid.

- And, once he's afraid, that's when Peter starts to sink into the water.
- By looking at the storm and waves and being scared by it, Peter let the storm and the waves get inside of his heart and mind.
- [*point to the egg in the water*] If we pretend this egg is like Peter, we can then see what happens when we let water inside of it.
- [*crack the egg open to let water in, and then close it back up*]
- What happens to the egg once it gets water inside of it? (it sinks into the water)
- Which is exactly what happened to Peter, isn't it? Once the storm gets inside of him, it causes him to sink into the water.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- But why didn't Jesus sink, too?
- I think Jesus didn't sink because he had been praying beforehand.
- By praying, Jesus was filled with God's breath, with God's Holy Spirit
- By being filled with God's Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to stay above the water [*put second egg into the water so that you have one floating egg and one sinking egg*], even when there were stormy seas and waves.
- And, just like Jesus spent time in prayer, so can we.
- When we spend time in prayer like Jesus did, we too will be filled with God's spirit, love and peace.
- And, when we are filled with God's spirit, love, and peace, there's a lot less room for the storms of life to get inside of us.
- Which then allows us to help others during those stormy times, just like Jesus was able to help Peter in today's scripture story.
- And that's the good news for today.
- Let's pray – this is a repeat-after-me prayer (see CLOSING Prayer)

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**...who shows us...**

**...who shows us...**

**...how to receive and share...**

**...how to receive and share...**

**...your help during stormy times.**

**...your help during stormy times.**

**Amen**