

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for August 13, 2023

Eleventh 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 as well) and a clear container or clear glass with water in it (enough for the egg to sink into).

**ASK** (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- 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 plastic 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 by himself. 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 do so.
- 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 it was because he had been praying beforehand.
- While praying, Jesus was filled with God's breath and God's Holy Spirit.
- By being filled with God's Holy Spirit instead of fear of the wind and waves, 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 around him.
- And, just like Jesus spent time in prayer to receive and be filled with God's Holy Spirit, so can we.
- When we spend time in prayer like Jesus did, we too can receive and 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 the storm in today's scripture story.
- And that's the good news for today. Let's pray.
- This is a repeat-after-me 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.**

**Thank you and Amen**