



# KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 2023

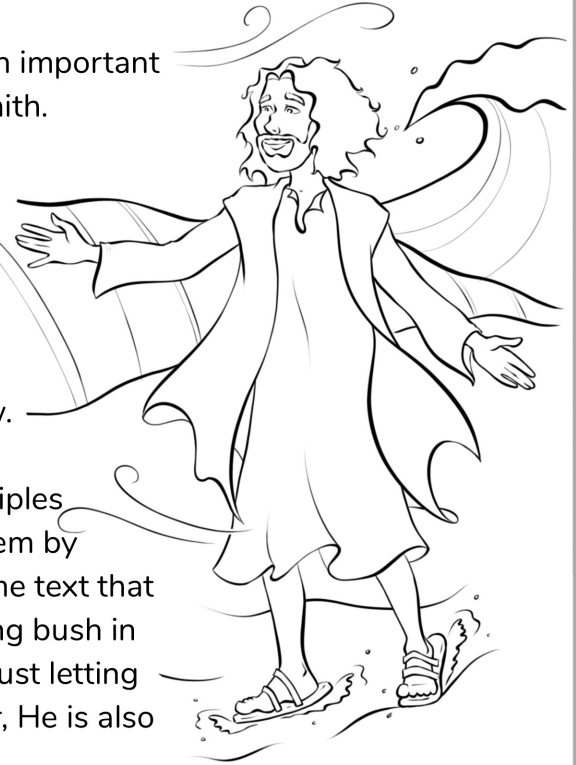
## Jesus Walks on the Water

**BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 14:22-33**

Today we hear Jesus declare His divinity and we learn an important lesson about keeping our eyes on Jesus, the object of our faith.

In verse 22 Matthew uses the word “immediately” as he starts to tell the gospel lesson. It is a story about one of Jesus’ miracles and we have heard Matthew use the word “immediately” in a few other places. The Concordia Study Bible points out that each time Matthew starts this way, a significant event in Jesus’ work on earth is about to follow.

In verse 27, when Jesus called out to the frightened disciples from where He was walking on the water, He reassures them by simply saying “It is I”. In the original Greek “It is I” is the same text that God uses to make Himself known to Moses from the burning bush in Exodus 3:14 when He says, “I AM WHO I AM”. Jesus isn’t just letting the disciples know that it isn’t just a ghost out on the water, He is also letting them know that He is Jesus, the Son of God.



When Peter asks to come meet Jesus out on the water, it is the first of many times when he will be an example for us of how we must fix our eyes on Jesus, the object or target of our faith. The moment Peter looks away from Jesus and starts to focus on the wind he starts to sink and must cry out for Jesus to save him. Jesus understands that we can also be distracted by fear and wants us to know that He is always there and will reach out to grab us with His strong arm of protection.

In the final verse from today’s gospel lesson, the disciples bow down and confirm that Jesus truly is “the Son of God”, connecting the words God spoke in Exodus “I AM WHO I AM” with those Jesus used in reference to Himself “Take heart it is I”. We also confirm this to be true when we recite the words of The Athanasian Creed “Thus the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God”.



## Prayer

Let us pray: Dear God, our heavenly Father. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus, to save us and for giving the Holy Spirit to help us to stay focused and have faith. Help us to remember that you will protect, guide and comfort us through all the storms of life. In the name of Jesus who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.