

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



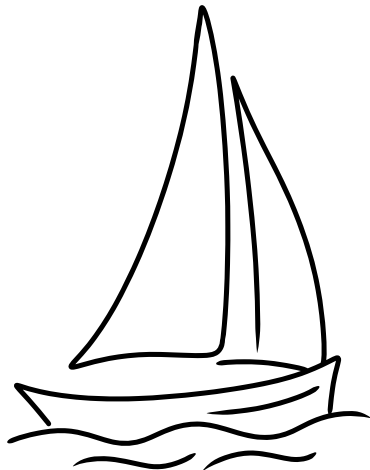
Matthew 14:22-33

‘Command me to come to you on the water.’

After the crowd had eaten and were satisfied: Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It is a ghost!’ and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.’ And Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’ And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’

Materials needed

- Printed boat sheet
- Pens



Reflection

Peter is often remembered for sinking, but before that happened he did something remarkable: he stepped out of the boat. The disciples were frightened by the storm and unsure of what was happening around them. Peter wasn't fearless; he was willing to trust Jesus despite his fear. For a moment, he kept his eyes fixed on Jesus and found the courage to do what seemed impossible. It was only when he became overwhelmed by the wind and waves that he began to sink. Many of us can relate to Peter. There are times when life feels uncertain. We might be worried about friendships, family, school, our future, or helping someone who is struggling. Like Peter, we can find ourselves focusing on the problems around us rather than on the presence of Jesus beside us. The good news in this Gospel is that when Peter cries out, Jesus immediately reaches out his hand. Jesus does not leave him to struggle alone. Even when our faith feels weak, Jesus remains faithful. We are often called to step out of our comfort zones. Whether it is speaking to someone who feels left out, volunteering our time, or standing up for what is right, we may not always feel confident. This Gospel reminds us that courage is not the absence of fear; it is trusting that Jesus walks with us through it.

Activity

As a group, look at the boat in the centre of the sheet. The boat represents the places where we feel safe, comfortable and in control. Together, discuss what things might belong inside the boat and write them down. These could be familiar routines, friendship groups, hobbies, places, or situations where we feel confident. Then turn your attention to the water around the boat. Around the boat, write down some of the challenges, fears or opportunities that young people face today, especially when trying to live out their faith and serve others. These might include speaking to someone who is lonely, standing up for what is right, trying something new, helping a person in need, or trusting God during a difficult time.

Call to Action

Once the sheet is complete, discuss which of these challenges God might be inviting us to face, and agree on one action that your group can take this week to step out of the boat and put your faith into practice.

