

Miracles over Nature

CHARACTERS: Jesus, Person 1, 2; Matthew, Thomas, Andrew, Phillip, Peter, John, Thaddeus, James the Less, Simon

SETTING: Israel, time of Christ

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Mark 4 and 12

Before you begin: Think back to a storm you experienced. Where were you? How long did it last? What was it like? Describe a time you were in a boat on rough water? What was it like?

Jesus Calms the Storm in Mark 4

PETER: When evening came, Jesus said to us disciples

JESUS: Let us go over to the other side.

ANDREW: Leaving the crowd behind, we took him along, just as he was, in the boat.

PETER: There were also other boats with us.

ANDREW: *(conveying a feeling of danger)* A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

PETER: Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.

ANDREW: The disciples woke him and asked.

MATTHEW: *(Panicked)* Teacher, don't you care if we drown?

PETER: Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,

JESUS: *(with authority)* Quiet! Be still!

ANDREW: *(Make sure there is a noticeable contrast with the danger line)* Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

JESUS: Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?

PETER: We were terrified and asked each other

THOMAS: *(scared)* Who is this?

MATTHEW: *(terrified)* Even the wind and the waves obey him!

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand in Mark 4

Before you begin: Think of a time you were in a big crowd – maybe a concert, sports event or at a park. What was it like getting a drink or food? Did you have to wait long?

PETER: We apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

ANDREW: We drove out many demons

PHILLIP: We anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

ANDREW: Because so many people were coming and going, we did not even have a chance to eat

JESUS: Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.

PETER: So we went away by ourselves in a boat to a solitary place.

ANDREW: But many who saw us leaving recognized us and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of us.

PETER: When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them,

JESUS: They are like sheep without a shepherd.

PETER: So he began teaching many things.

ANDREW: By this time, it was late in the day, so the disciples came to him.

PHILLIP: This is a remote place, and it's already very late.

ANDREW: Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.

JESUS: You give us something to eat.

PHILLIP: That would take eight months of a man's wages. Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to us to eat?

JESUS: How many loaves do you have? Go and see."

ANDREW: Five—and two fish.

JESUS: Have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.

PHILLIP: Please sit down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

ANDREW: Good idea. Then we can figure out how many are here.

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PETER: Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves.

JESUS: Take this and set it before the people.

ANDREW: He also divided the two fish among us all.

PETER: They all ate and were satisfied

ANDREW: (*astonished*) Look, we disciples have picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.

PHILLIP: (*amazed*) Twelve basketfuls!

ANDREW: (*incredulous*) I counted the people. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand!

Jesus Walks on the Water in Mark 6

Before you begin: Think about a spooky situation you have been in or possibly a movie that was spooky. What made the situation spooky? Describe a situation when a couple of people got frightened and then everyone reacted that way.

PHILIP: Immediately Jesus made us disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

ANDREW: After leaving us, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

PHILIP: When evening came, our boat was in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land.

ANDREW: He saw us straining at the oars

PETER: The wind is against us. Pull hard on the oars

JOHN: It is about the fourth watch of the night.

PHILIP: (*amazed*) Jesus came out to us, walking on the lake.

ANDREW: He was about to pass by us, but when we saw him walking on the lake, we thought he was a ghost.

PETER: (*frightened*) Look! A ghost – look!

JOHN: (*scared*) A ghost on the water!

ANDREW: We were terrified.

PHILIP: Immediately Jesus spoke to us

JESUS: Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.

ANDREW: Then he climbed into the boat with us

JOHN: (*surprised*) The wind is dying down.

PHILIP: We were completely amazed, for we had not understood about the loaves.

ANDREW: (*ashamed*) Our hearts were hardened.

PETER: (*relieved*) We have crossed over. We're landing here at Gennesaret

JOHN: Anchor here.

PHILIP: As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus.

PERSON 1: (*excited*) Look, its Jesus!

PERSON 2: Jesus is here.

PERSON 1: Quick – go get the sick people to be healed!

ANDREW: They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard Jesus was.

PHILIP: And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces.

PERSON 1: (*pleading*) Help us!

PERSON 2: (*begging*) Please, let us touch just the hem of your cloak.

PERSON 1: (*amazed*) Everyone who is touching him is healed!

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand in Mark 8

SIMON: Lord, another large crowd has gathered.

JAMES THE LESS: We have nothing to eat.

PETER: Since we had nothing to eat, Jesus called us to him.

JESUS: I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send us home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of us have come a long distance.

THADDEUS: But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed us?

JESUS: How many loaves do you have?

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THADDEUS: Seven

JESUS: Tell the crowd to sit down on the ground.

SIMON: Please be seated, everyone.

JAMES THE LESS: When Jesus had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them

JESUS: (*to his disciples*) Set this before the people.

SIMON: Yes, Lord

PETER: We had a few small fish as well;

JAMES the LESS: Jesus gave thanks for us also and told us to distribute us.

SIMON: The people have eaten and are satisfied.

THADDEUS: (*astonished*) We have picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

JAMES THE LESS: (*amazed*) About four thousand men are present.

PETER: Jesus sent the 4000 away

SIMON: He got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

JAMES the LESS: The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus to test him

PHARISEE: Give us a sign from heaven.

JESUS: (*with a deep sigh*) Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it.

SIMON: Then he left us, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

JAMES THE LESS: We have forgotten to bring bread

THADDEUS: Except for this one loaf we have with us in the boat.

JESUS: Be careful. Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.

JAMES THE LESS: They discussed this with one another and said

JAMES THE LESS: It is because we have no bread.

SIMON: Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked us

JESUS: Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?

JAMES THE LESS: Twelve.

JESUS: And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?

SIMON: Seven.

JESUS: Do you still not understand?