

A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

Walking on Water: A Fish Tale

Based on Matthew 14:22–33 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

CAST SIZE
5 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
10–12 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
Blue drape, thunder sound effect

MAIN THEME

Miracles can't be explained—but they can be trusted, because Jesus has power over everything.

Carrie Elderberry's Gospel Puppets · gospelpuppets.org

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To print just the play on its own, print pages 5-10.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

Three fish are delighted to finally be in a puppet show, but they're not supposed to be on first. When BOY and GIRL set up the story of Jesus walking on water, the fish eagerly take the stage to tell it from their underwater perspective—watching Jesus walk across the surface, Peter step out of the boat, and the wind stop the moment Jesus and Peter return to the disciples. GIRL begins the play skeptical of miracles and ends it wanting to swim with the fish when Jesus returns.

Spiritual Concept

Miracles can't be explained—but they reveal who Jesus is. When we trust Him, even in the storm, He reaches out His hand. The fish see what the disciples miss: it's just Jesus.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 5-12; adaptable for all ages.

Performance Time

10-12 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

GIRL — A modern child who has not yet decided to follow Jesus—she is "still learning" to trust Him. She comes around by the end.

BOY — A modern child and follower of Jesus—patient and enthusiastic about sharing the story.

FISH #1 — A witness to Jesus walking on the water—the most observant of the three.

FISH #2 — Eager and a little silly—wants to walk on water too.

FISH #3 – Thoughtful and philosophical—the one who draws the bigger lessons.

Prop Options

- Blue drape to represent the water during the fish scene (optional).
 - A thunder sound effect—rattle an aluminum pan, or purchase a thunder tube (a percussion instrument).
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PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

New to puppets? General prep, technique, and voice tips live at gospelpuppets.org/getting-started.

Character Notes

FISH #2's desire to walk on water too ("Do you think Jesus would let me walk on water?") is the comic relief moment—FISH #3's dry response ("This story is not about you") is the payoff.

FISH #1 is the narrator—calm and observational. The other two react more broadly.

GIRL's final lines ("And when Jesus comes back, it will be all miracles!") should feel like a genuine turn, not a sudden conversion.

Staging

FISH peek out from the wings before their cue—play up their eagerness.

BOY and GIRL can watch from the wings during the fish scene. They must stay alert for their re-entry.

During the storm sequence, use the thunder sound effect at the marked moments.

When Peter sinks, FISH watch anxiously; when Jesus pulls him up, the relief should be visible.

Reading the Script

CAPS = Volume / intensity.

Extra commas = pause for breath.

Sound Effects

- Thunder (storm sequence): Rattle an aluminum pan, or use a thunder tube. Recorded options: pixabay.com/sound-effects/search/thunder

More options and noise-maker tips at gospelpuppets.org/sound-effects.

WALKING ON WATER: A FISH TALE

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(Enter FISH #1, FISH #2, and FISH #3.)

FISH #1: This is so exciting!
FISH #2: I know! I feel like I am going to POP!
FISH #3: Me too. All my life I have wanted to be in a puppet show.
FISH #1: Me three! But nobody ever thinks about FISH.
FISH #2: We see a lot of things though.
FISH #3: Yes! The stories we could tell!
FISH #1: So where is the puppet theater, anyway?
FISH #2: It MUST be nearby.
FISH #3: Let's look for it!

(FISH look all around and then notice the audience.)

FISH #1: Umm, do you see all those people? Looking at us?
FISH #2: Maybe they can tell us where the theater is.
FISH #3: Excuse us, have you seen a puppet theater anywhere?

(Let audience answer. Have fun with this.)

FISH #1: Uh oh! We were NOT supposed to be on first.
FISH #2: We better get out of sight!
FISH #3: I hope we are not in trouble!

(Exit FISH.)

(Enter BOY and GIRL.)

GIRL: Hello, kids! Welcome to our puppet show!
BOY: Today we are going to tell you a story about one of the miracles in the Bible.
GIRL: Wait a minute. I thought it was about fish. What is a miracle?
BOY: A miracle? Well, it is when God makes something happen, that we think is NOT possible.

GIRL: That does not make any sense!
BOY: Right. Miracles cannot be explained.
GIRL: I'm not sure I like that. That sounds like God is breaking all the rules.
BOY: I see what you mean. I guess miracles would be scary, if we did not trust God.
GIRL: I am sort of, still "learning" to trust Him.
BOY: That's ok.
GIRL: So, what is the story about?
BOY: Oh, it's very famous. Jesus walked on top of some water, and Peter did too!
GIRL: That is totally not possible! Nobody can walk on water! They would sink!
BOY: That is why it was a miracle.
GIRL: Well I don't like it. I think that story must be just pretend, just like a fish tale or something.
BOY: No, it really happened. The Bible always tells us if a story is pretend, or if it's true. This story is TRUE.
GIRL: So what you are saying is that... a miracle made the water strong enough for them to walk on it?
BOY: In a way, yes. Jesus made everything, and He has power over everything. So He can make miracles happen.
GIRL: But why? Why would Jesus DO that?
BOY: Tell you what. Let's pretend—let's imagine—what it would have been like to be a fish in the water that night.

(FISH peek out from wings.)

FISH #1: Ooh! Is that our cue? We are fish! We're the fish!
FISH #2: Can we come on the stage now?
FISH #3: We can tell that story really well!
BOY: Sure, why don't we trade places and you can tell the story?
ALL: OK!

(BOY and GIRL trade places with FISH. GIRL and BOY can watch from the wings. FISH act like they are being rocked by water.)

(Sound of thunder.)

FISH #1: There must be quite a storm up above us.

FISH #2: Yes, and I see the bottom of a BOAT.

(All fish look to the left.)

FISH #3: What is a boat doing out here, in the middle of the night? And in this storm? They are not fishing!

FISH #1: And SUCH a stormy night!

(Sound of thunder.)

ALL: Oooh!

FISH #2: Well they certainly are NOT fishing!

FISH #3: No, no fishing nets.

FISH #1: Wait, I see something else, over THERE.

(All fish look to the right.)

FISH #2: OH! It is our Lord! He is walking over the water to the boat. How funny!

FISH #3: I am going to swim over and kiss His toes.

FISH #1: No, wait, look, the people in the boat are all screaming!

(All fish look toward the left.)

ALL: Ooooh!

FISH #2: What are they so scared about?

FISH #1: I don't know. It's just Jesus.

FISH #2: Right. Jesus is THEIR Lord too.

FISH #3: Don't they trust Him?

FISH #1: Listen:

(FISH listen.)

FISH #1: They think He is a ghost!

FISH #2: Those silly people!

FISH #3: They are only silly, when it comes to knowing God. They are pretty clever about catching fish...

FISH #2: Good point.

FISH #3: What is Jesus doing now?

(All fish look back toward the right, to Jesus.)

FISH #1: Jesus is telling them not to be scared.

FISH #2: Yes, He is always so kind!

FISH #3: *(looking left, back toward the boat)* Listen! Now one of the humans is saying, "If it really is You, Lord, tell me to come to You".

FISH #2: *(silly)* I would never talk to a ghost.

FISH #1: Hush. Now what?

FISH #3: *(looking right, to Jesus)* Jesus just said, "Come on then".

FISH #2: One of the men has gotten out of the boat!

(FISH look left, toward boat.)

ALL: Oooh!

FISH #3: He is walking on the water, toward Jesus! This is so cool!

(Suggested song: "The Same Power" by Lifetree Kids – [listen on Spotify](#))

(Thunder again, really loud and prolonged.)

FISH #2: Uh-oh. His feet are starting to get wet!

FISH #3: He is sinking!

FISH #1: He is crying out to Jesus!

FISH #3: He is saying, "Lord Jesus, save me!"

FISH #2: What! Does he think Jesus will let him drown?

FISH #3: He still doesn't REALLY trust Jesus!

FISH #1: At least he said, "Lord." That shows he trusts Jesus at least a LITTLE bit.

FISH #2: Now Jesus is holding him, and pulling him up to his feet again.

FISH #3: Now they are walking together to the boat.

(All fish look left toward boat.)

FISH #2: Do you think Jesus would let me walk on water too?

FISH #3: Well He could, but this story is not about you.

FISH #2: I want to try it.

FISH #1: Look, now they are in the boat!

(FISH stop rocking.)

FISH #2: And the wind has stopped!

ALL: Aaah!

FISH #3: Do you think that NOW they will trust Him?

FISH #1: They SHOULD.

FISH #2: People are very silly, though.

FISH #3: Yes, even when they see a miracle—

FISH #1: Or READ about one—

FISH #2: They are still afraid to trust God.

FISH #3: However, this miracle will be recorded in the Bible.

FISH #1: Yes! And people who want to find out the truth, about God, will read about it there.

FISH #2: Let's call out to those kids.

ALL: Oh, children! Did you hear all that?

(Enter BOY and GIRL.)

BOY: Yes!

GIRL: Yes!

FISH #1: Little girl, did that help you to understand about miracles?

GIRL: Yes, thank you.

BOY: I felt like I was right there with you!

FISH #2: Maybe, when Jesus comes back, we will ALL get to walk on water!

GIRL: And I want to swim UNDER the water, with you!

FISH #3: I would love that.

GIRL: And maybe we can all fly!

FISH #2: You are so funny. Ten minutes ago, you said you did not like miracles.

GIRL: Yeah, but I am learning to. And when Jesus comes back, it will be all miracles!

BOY: Well, the puppet show is nearly over. Will you fishies help us with the ending?

ALL: Sure!

BOY: One, two, three—

ALL: You can read all about Jesus walking on the water in the Bible, in the book of Matthew, Chapter 14. Goodbye!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Why were the disciples scared when they saw Jesus walking on the water?
2. Why did Peter start to sink? What did he do next?
3. The fish said, "It's just Jesus." What did they mean by that?
4. GIRL said she was "still learning" to trust God. What does learning to trust someone look like?
5. What miracle would you most want to see Jesus do?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Matthew 14:22-33 – Jesus walks on water and rescues Peter.

Additional Scripture:

- Matthew 14:30-31 – "He was terrified and began to sink. 'Save me, Lord!' he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him." (NLT)
- Psalm 56:3 – "But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you." (NLT)
- Isaiah 41:10 – "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God." (NLT)

Song Suggestions

- "The Same Power" – Lifetree Kids – <https://open.spotify.com/track/6j9v36uo3pET1H0GrGNXNm>
- "Peace Like a River" – Cedarment Kids – <https://open.spotify.com/track/2CuTb9Tks9eeAmjHGm5vAC>
- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" – Cedarment Kids – <https://open.spotify.com/track/2EKmcipc4bfMJjCzGnZupr>
- "I Cast All My Cares Upon You" – Jason and DeMarco – <https://open.spotify.com/track/6atwJSMRKsgzMtw7lN8WoQ>
- "God's Love Is So Wonderful" – Gilda Mathew – <https://open.spotify.com/track/26KYT90usfw1aToi7LQImf>

Ministry Context

This play works well for any series on faith, trust, or the miracles of Jesus. The fish's comic perspective makes the story fresh and accessible for young children, while the deeper themes of trust and doubt connect with older audiences. Consider

pairing with a reading of Matthew 14:22-33 before or after the performance.