

Alison Mitchell

the  
**GHOST**  
that wasn't a  
**GHOST**



*It was a dark  
and stormy night...*

Peter looked round at his friends in the boat, but with all that wind and rain he could only just see them. Some were pulling hard on the oars. A few had grabbed the sails. Others were tipping water out of the boat as fast as they could. But it came back even faster. The wind bashed the boat; the waves crashed into it; the storm was huge—and they were all very afraid.

But then, things got worse...

As Peter peered out across the sea, wiping the rain from his eyes, he thought—just for a moment—that he saw something. It was far away, and hard to see. Maybe he imagined it? But, no, it was there—and coming closer.

The others saw it too. It looked... surely it couldn't be... but it did look like...

**“Aagh! It's a ghost!”** they yelled, and cried out in fear. They were terrified!

But then the “ghost” spoke to them. “Have courage!” he said. “It's me. Don't be afraid.”

Peter *knew* that voice. It might have looked like a ghost, but it wasn't. It was a man. And not just any man. They knew this man; he was their friend. This was **Jesus**.

But this man was walking to them *on top of the sea*, just as if it was solid ground. Peter wasn't sure it could really be Jesus at all.

So Peter called out. He maybe didn't even realise what he was going to say until the words were out of his mouth:

"Lord," he said, "If that is really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

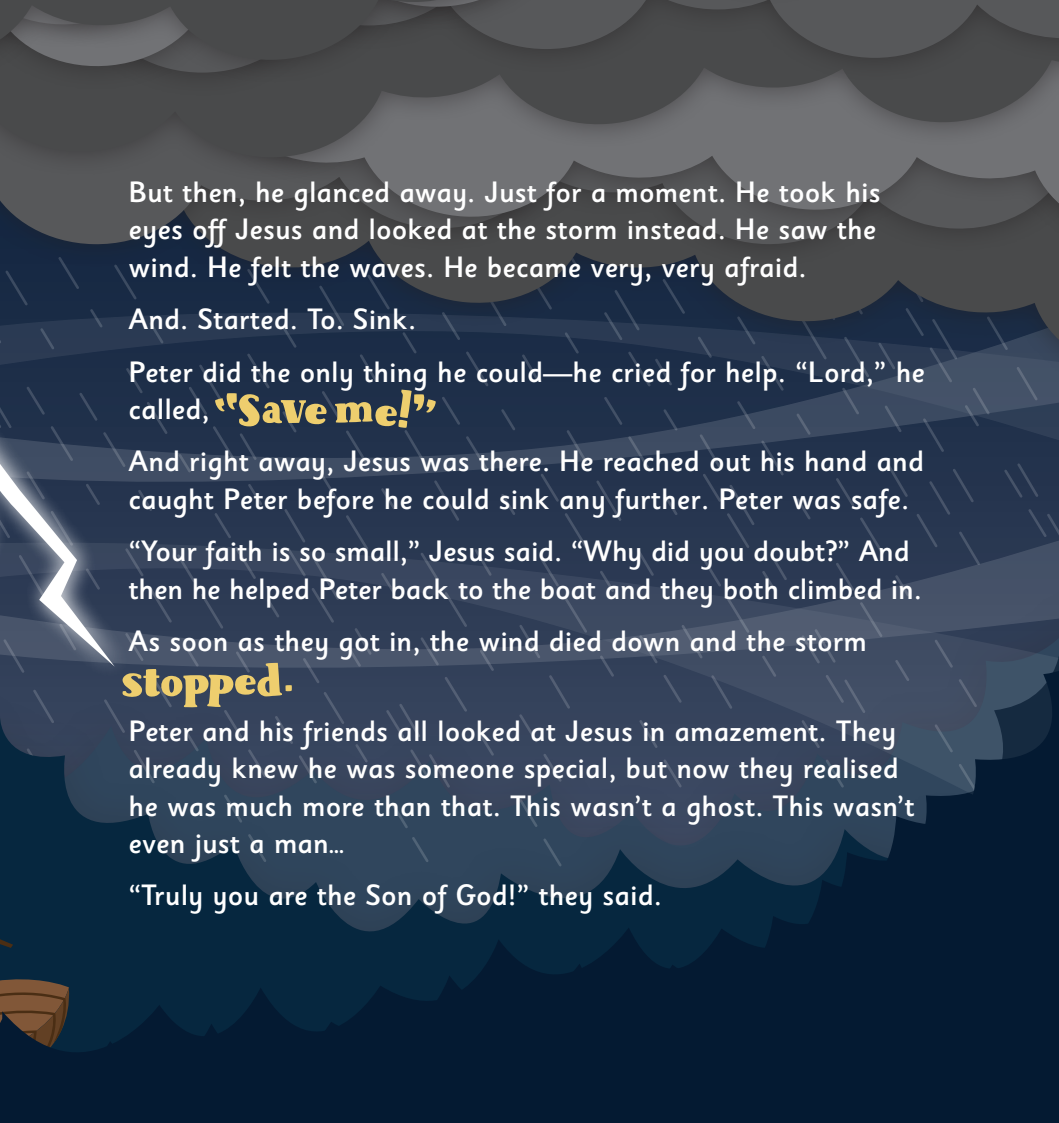
What?! What a thing to say! Did Peter *really* want to say that??

He got a quick reply. Just one word. **"Come!"**

Oh no! Now Peter had to do it. He grabbed the side of the boat, and carefully, slowly, gingerly—he stepped out. First one foot. Then the other. And... yes... he was... he really was... standing on the water.

He looked up to see where Jesus was, and started walking towards him. One step after another. Closer and closer. Getting nearer to Jesus all the time.





But then, he glanced away. Just for a moment. He took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the storm instead. He saw the wind. He felt the waves. He became very, very afraid.

And. Started. To. Sink.

Peter did the only thing he could—he cried for help. “Lord,” he called, **“Save me!”**

And right away, Jesus was there. He reached out his hand and caught Peter before he could sink any further. Peter was safe.

“Your faith is so small,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt?” And then he helped Peter back to the boat and they both climbed in.

As soon as they got in, the wind died down and the storm **stopped.**

Peter and his friends all looked at Jesus in amazement. They already knew he was someone special, but now they realised he was much more than that. This wasn’t a ghost. This wasn’t even just a man...

“Truly you are the Son of God!” they said.

# The true story of the GHOST that wasn't a GHOST

This true story about Jesus comes from the Bible. It was written down for us by Matthew, who was one of Jesus's friends. Matthew was there in the boat that night, and wrote about what he saw. You can read his story in the Bible, in Matthew chapter 14 verses 22-33.

It's not surprising that Peter, Matthew and the others were so scared. They'd never seen a man walking on water before. But they quickly learned that Jesus wasn't like any other man they knew. There was only one reason why Jesus could walk on water, and why storms were no problem for him. Jesus is God. He is God come to earth as a man. We can know this because he can do things that only God can do.

God made our world. He made the sea. He made the wind and waves. They do what he tells them to do. And they do what Jesus wants as well. So if Jesus decided he wanted the water to become solid—like dry ground—that's what it had to do! And that's why both Jesus and Peter could walk on top of it.

Peter was very scared when he started to sink, but as soon as he cried out to Jesus for help, Jesus saved him.

Like Peter, we can know Jesus as our Friend, if we listen to him and trust him. And then, if we ever get scared, we can ask Jesus to help us. And he will.

If you'd like to find out more about Jesus, ask the person who gave you this leaflet, or see if you can join a group at a church where they teach the Bible. They will help you learn more about Jesus, the Son of God—who definitely wasn't a ghost!

And if you want, you may like to use this prayer to talk to God. It's the kind of prayer he loves to hear and answer:

*Dear Jesus, thank you for showing your friends, and me, that you are the Son of God. Please help me learn more about you. Amen*

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