When You Need a Helping Hand Sun Am KZ 6/6/2021

Memory Verse: Matthew 14:31 (NKJV)

**31**And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Target Thought: Jesus is always with us to help us.

Has there ever been a time in your life when you needed someone to give you a helping hand? Of course, there has! Can you name some? How about when you first began to try to tie your own shoes, did you need someone to help you? It was probably your mother, wasn't it? She worked patiently with you until you were able to do it all by yourself. How about when you got your first bicycle, did someone run along beside you and hold you up? When you began to learn to read, did you just pick up a book and start reading? Of course not, someone—probably a teacher, or parent, helped you learn. There are always going to be times when you need a helping hand—even when you are grown!

Today's Bible lesson is about a time when the disciples of Jesus needed a helping hand — one disciple in particular whose name was Simon Peter. Now Peter loved Jesus with all of his heart and he was always willing to do whatever Jesus wanted or needed him to do. Peter always got very excited about being with Jesus and helping Him.

It had been a long, hard day for Jesus and his disciples. After the disciples had helped Jesus feed more than five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two small fish, Jesus told them to get into their boat and go on ahead of him to the other side of the lake. Jesus then went up on a mountainside to be alone and to pray.

Later that evening, the disciples were quite far out onto the lake when the wind began to blow and the waves began to bounce their boat around on the water. They were in a storm and they were frightened because they didn’t know what was going to happen. Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to the disciples, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they cried.

Jesus immediately spoke to them: "Don't be afraid! Take courage. I am here!" The bible tells us that Jesus is always with us He will never us. Let’s read that scripture.

# Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)

**5***Let your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Peter spoke up, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus answered.

So, Peter climbed out of the boat and started walking on the water toward Jesus. But when he started looking around and saw the waves being blown about by the wind. He was afraid and he began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried. Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. "Why did you doubt?" Jesus asked. Se Peter got his eyes off of Jesus and onto the scary waves. We live and walk by faith, that means we believe that Jesus is who said He is and that He will do what He said He will do. We believe Jesus more than the circumstances. Let’s read that scripture.

# 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

**7**For we walk by faith, not by sight.

So, you see, even a grown-up fisherman like Simon Peter needed a hand from Jesus when it came to walking on the water. You and I may face some pretty rough times in our life, but as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, he will always be there to give us a hand.

Father, help us to remember that You are always there when we need a helping hand. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

1. Will there be times when we all need a helping hand?
2. Will Jesus ever leave us?
3. Do we believe Jesus more than the circumstance?