

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

Like the disciples, I am unsure of who Jesus is. **Through His Word and Sacraments, Jesus shows He is my Savior and God.**

Bible Words

Long ago . . . God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.

Hebrews 1:1-2

Fun Facts

People thought stone water containers did not become unclean, unlike earthenware pots. That was important because these stone jars held water for the Jewish rites of purification, which included washing hands before eating. Each jar held 20-30 gallons of water, which Jesus turned into 120-180 gallons of wine!

Jesus Changes Water into Wine

John 2:1-11

Early in Jesus' ministry, He attended a wedding in Cana with His first disciples. Jesus' mother, Mary, also attended.

By custom, the groom's family hosted a five- to seven-day wedding feast with food, wine, dancing, and entertainment. At this wedding, Mary learned that the wine ran out. This would result in serious embarrassment for the host family, so Mary told Jesus about it.

Jesus called His mother "woman," a common and respectful greeting, but His question "What does this have to do with Me?" means more than it seems. He meant, "What shared interest do we have here?" Mary seemed to expect a miracle, but Jesus knew this would reveal His identity as God's Son. Showing faith in her Son, Mary directed the servants to do whatever He said.

Jesus decided to act. He told the servants to fill the six nearby stone water jars with water and then draw some out and take it to the master of the feast. The master of the feast tasted the new wine and praised the bridegroom for providing such great wine, better than that served first.

Other people would have made a big show of this kind of generosity, but only Mary, the servants, and Jesus' disciples knew the circumstances of the miracle. This was the first miracle Jesus showed to His disciples, and they believed in Him.

Wine at Weddings

A biblical wedding ceremony and feast required large amounts of wine. During the ceremony, a rabbi thanked and praised God and spoke blessings over several cups of wine drunk by the couple. People drank wine at the celebration and meals that followed. At the end of a meal, a prayer and seven blessings were recited over wine shared by the couple.

Wine symbolized life: it began as grape juice, soured as it fermented, and then turned into something wonderful that brought joy. A full cup of wine symbolized God's overflowing love and blessings (Psalm 23:5).

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for showing us that You are God's Son, our Savior, who died for us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

I sin when I do not honor God's house or when I disturb the worship of others. **Jesus is my holy temple who, by His sacrifice on the altar of the cross, cleansed me from sin and made me a member of His Body, the Church.**

Bible Words

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

Fun Facts

From a distance, pilgrims saw the white, gold-flecked marble of Herod's temple gleaming in the sunlight, urging them onward. Built on the top of a mountain in Jerusalem, the temple covered thirty-five acres.

First-century Romano-Jewish historian Josephus reported that 10,000 skilled laborers worked to build Herod's temple from 19 BC–AD 63, before, during, and after Jesus walked there. Sadly, Rome destroyed it in AD 70.

Just Joking

Where was Herod's temple located?

On the side of his head

Jesus Clears the Temple

John 2:13–22

The temple in Jerusalem was a very busy place. Thousands came to pray and sacrifice daily. Builders worked on its construction every day for eighty-two years, except Sabbaths.

Visitors listened to religious teachers and schmoozed in the large court of the Gentiles. Here, vendors also sold animals and items for sacrifice, and money-changers exchanged foreign coins for those accepted in the temple. (Jews believed coins with human images violated the First Commandment.)

The number of daily temple visitors swelled during feast days. Passover and the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread drew the largest crowds with an estimated influx of hundreds of thousands of religious pilgrims coming to Jerusalem.

Early in His public ministry, Jesus went to Passover with His disciples. Displeased when He saw merchants and money-changers taking advantage of the people, Jesus made a whip of cords. He drove the sellers and their animals out. He overturned the money-changers' tables and poured their coins on the ground. Later, His disciples remembered that zeal, His jealous love for God, consumed Him (Psalm 69:9).

Appalled, the religious leaders, who made a lot of money from these transactions, challenged Jesus to do a miracle to show His actions were justified. Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). This confused them. It had taken forty-six years to build the temple, and it wasn't done. How could Jesus rebuild it in three days?

John explained that Jesus spoke about His body, the temple of God. Jesus knew the religious leaders would kill Him, and He even challenged them to do so. He also knew that God would raise Him from the dead three days later. His disciples remembered this after He rose from the dead, and they believed the Scriptures and the words Jesus spoke.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for dying for our sins on the cross and rising from the dead to give forgiveness of sin and resurrection to new life to all who believe in You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

As a child of Adam, I am by nature sinful and unclean. **As a child of God, I am by grace righteous and pure in God's sight. I have been born of water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism, through which God the Holy Spirit created and sustains faith in my heart to believe and trust in Jesus and gives me the gift of eternal life.**

Bible Words

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

Fun Facts

The Jewish Council of seventy religious leaders oversaw the temple activities.

From the Catechism

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Luther's Small Catechism, Baptism, First Part, Second Part

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

John 3:1–21

Jesus challenged the powerful religious leaders when He overturned tables and chased money-changers and vendors from the temple. That threatened the leaders' income and way of life. He also made them wonder if He was the Christ, the King God promised His Old Testament people.

A Pharisee and member of the Jewish Council named Nicodemus wanted to know more. He came to see Jesus secretly at night. Nicodemus said he knew God was with Jesus because of His miracles. Jesus answered by addressing Nicodemus's real question about God's kingdom. He said, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

Taking Jesus' words literally, Nicodemus asked how an old man could enter his mother's womb to be born again. Jesus replied, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (v. 5). Jesus spoke about the new birth of Baptism, an uneasy subject for the Pharisees who rejected John the Baptist and his Baptism of repentance, a preparation to meet Jesus. As a result, they rejected Jesus (Luke 7:29–30).

Jesus commands Baptism, and in it delivers His grace, faith, and forgiveness of sins. By water and Spirit, God births us into His kingdom. In Baptism, God unites us to Jesus' death and resurrection and makes us alive with Him, forgiven and new (Colossians 2:12–14).

Jesus left heaven to come to earth as our Savior, to die on the cross to pay for our sins, and to rise from the grave to give us new life. Our Lord did this so that we would not perish but have eternal life with Him.

Baptism and Faith

Baptism and faith are inseparable. God commands Baptism and promises birth to eternal life. Faith receives eternal life by hearing and trusting God's command and promise in Baptism. God can and does give faith through His Word, apart from Baptism. But faith cannot exist if someone rejects Baptism. All who believe and are baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:16).

Prayer

Jesus, help us believe and trust Your baptismal promises, delivered by water and Your Word. Amen.

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New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

Because of sin, my soul is parched and dying. **The Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, gives me the living water from God's Word and Holy Baptism to quench my spiritual thirst forever, giving me new life in Christ.**

Bible Words

We know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.
John 4:42

Fun Facts

Samaria lay directly between Galilee and Judea. After the Babylonians exiled the royal, rich, educated Jews to their land, the remaining poor, less educated Jews lived in Samaria. Many scandalously married Gentiles. Later, returning Jews settled near Jerusalem.

In the fourth century BC, the Samaritans built a temple on Mount Gerizim to worship God. The Jews destroyed this temple in 107 BC, saying Jerusalem was the only true place to worship the Lord God. Hostility increased. Most often, Jews traveling to Jerusalem walked around Samaria, going many miles out of the way to avoid the area.

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

John 4:1–42

Jesus often disregarded cultural customs. On this day, He traveled through Samaria. He spoke to and cared for Samaritans. He talked with a woman in public. He showed His true identity as Messiah to sinners.

Jesus and His entourage stopped near the Samaritan town of Sychar around noon. Weary, Jesus sat beside a well while His disciples went into town to find food.

A woman came to draw water in the heat of the day. The fact that she was working then instead of in the cool morning with other women hints at her low place in the community. Still, Jesus asked her for a drink.

Surprised, the woman asked why a Jew would ask a Samaritan for a drink. Jesus responded by saying if she knew God's gifts and who He was, she would ask Him for water, and He would give her *living water*.

The woman asked how Jesus could get this water without a water-drawing tool. Jesus then told her more about this living water. Those who drink it never thirst again; it bubbles up to eternal life. Excited to end water-toting drudgery and thirst, the woman eagerly asked for some of it.

Switching topics, Jesus asked the woman to call her husband. When she said she wasn't married, Jesus said she was right. He also said she had married five times and now lived with a sixth man. This revelation made the woman recognize Jesus as a prophet, God's spokesperson.

A few exchanges later, the woman spoke of the Christ, and Jesus said, "I who speak to you am He" (John 4:26).

The astonished woman went back into town and told others about their conversation. Many townspeople came to see Jesus. He stayed two more days and many believed in Him as "indeed the Savior of the world" (v. 42).

The Spirit works through God's Word to show us this truth: Jesus is the Savior of the world! His blood "cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). He quenches our thirst for eternal life. The Spirit gives us these gifts of forgiveness of sin and eternal life in the *living water* of Baptism, a "washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).

Prayer

Holy Spirit, give us faith to believe in Jesus as the Savior of the world and as our Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.

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New Testament 2

Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

Sin blinds me so I cannot see my Savior. **God works through His Word and Sacraments so I can see and believe in Jesus.**

Bible Words

[Jesus said,] "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me . . . to proclaim good news."
Luke 4:18

Fun Facts

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth before Jesus' birth and returned home when He was a young child. Jesus grew up in Nazareth and people identified Him as "Jesus of Nazareth."

Known as one of the most beautiful places in Galilee, Nazareth lies in a basin, surrounded by limestone hills. Five hundred feet above Nazareth, a hill offers a panoramic view of the mountains to the north, south, and west. You can see the Mediterranean Sea on the west and the rock fortress of Megiddo rising from the plain on the south. This is the hill from which the townspeople probably tried to throw Jesus to His death.

Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth

Luke 4:16–30

Home offers a comfortable place for many, but not for Jesus. Jesus returned home to Nazareth in the early days of His public ministry and went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was His custom.

Jesus stood up to read, probably at the invitation of the synagogue ruler. After reading the messianic prophecy from Isaiah 61, Jesus announced, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). Then He sat down to teach. The crowd marveled at Jesus' gracious words and all was well until Jesus called the people to repentance.

Using Old Testament examples, Jesus showed that God would open the covenant to Gentiles. Appalled and angry, the people drove Him out of town to the brow of a hill, intending to throw Him down as a false prophet. Jesus simply passed through the crowd and went on His way.

The Messiah was in control. He would lay down His life; no one would take it from Him until the appointed hour (John 10:18).

God's Grace to Gentiles in the Old Testament

The Bible shows God's grace for Gentiles or non-Jews in the Old Testament, although we may not easily identify it.

In His sermon at Nazareth, Jesus shared these examples:

- God spared His prophet Elijah by housing him with a widow and her son in Sidon, a foreign country.
- In Elisha's time, although there were many lepers in Israel, the Lord cleansed only Naaman the Syrian.

Given more time, Jesus could have cited many other examples. God's love is inclusive. He loves everyone, Jews and Gentiles, people of all ages from all nations.

Prayer

Lord God, thank You for offering Your grace to all people at all times and in all places. Keep us in Your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

In sin, I blindly go my own way and am headed toward eternal death. **Christ saves me and calls me to follow Him in His way, a way that leads to eternal life.**

Bible Words

And [Jesus] said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.
Matthew 4:19–20

Fun Facts

At least four of Jesus’ twelve disciples worked as fishermen on the Sea of Galilee before He called them—Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, and brothers James and John. Philip came from the town of Bethsaida, on the northern shore of the sea. Matthew collected taxes in Capernaum, another seaside city.

Just Joking

How do we know Peter and Andrew were rich fishermen? Look at their net income.

Jesus Calls Disciples

Matthew 4:12–25

Herod Antipas arrested John the Baptist and ended his public ministry. John said, “[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). And so He did.

Jesus moved to Capernaum in Galilee, a seaside city at the crossroads of two major highways. He recruited disciples to study and travel with Him. Those who agreed left families, jobs, and communities. Jesus invited Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to become fishers of men. And so they did.

Jesus and His disciples traveled throughout Galilee to teach in the synagogues and proclaim the Gospel of the kingdom of God. Jesus healed people with various diseases and pains, including those with paralysis, epilepsy, and demonic oppression. Only Christ, through His divine miracles, could help people with these afflictions. And so He did.

In fact, the Gospel of Matthew says Jesus’ Galilean ministry fulfilled a prophecy by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, bringing the light of Christ to people who walked in darkness (Isaiah 9:1–2). And so He did.

Great crowds followed Jesus, including people from ten mostly Gentile cities from the east side of the Jordan River and those from Judea and its capital city of Jerusalem. And so His fame grew and so did His followers.

Yoked to Jesus

A wood yoke fastens two animals together. Jewish rabbis taught that the “yoke of the Law,” or obedience to God, freed a person from worldly obligations and gave rest. Sadly, no one can perfectly obey God except Jesus, who took on the yoke of the Law and fulfilled it for us.

Jesus said, “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:29–30). Jesus carried our sins and sorrows to the cross. Jesus invites us to follow Him, to be yoked with Him to the Gospel, and to receive His forgiveness of sin and true rest.

Prayer

Jesus, forgive us, heal us, and give us Your grace. Amen.

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New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

Sin, sickness, and the devil are at work in the world. **Jesus, the Holy One of God, has power over sin, sickness, and the devil and frees me from their hold.**

Bible Words

Jesus Christ heals you.
Acts 9:34

Fun Facts

In 1838, American explorer Edward Robinson discovered the ruins of ancient Capernaum. Almost thirty years later, British Captain Charles W. Wilson identified the ruins of an ancient synagogue there. Excavations by several groups in the twentieth century uncovered a white stone synagogue. Many scholars now date this synagogue to the fifth century, although some think it stood during the time Jesus taught here. More recent excavations discovered ruins beneath this structure, identified as an earlier synagogue.

Jesus Heals Many

Luke 4:31–44

When Jesus taught in the Capernaum synagogue on a Sabbath, a man possessed with an unclean demon confronted Him. “Ha!” he said. “What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God” (Luke 4:34).

Jesus rebuked the demon and commanded it to come out of the man. The demon threw him down and obediently came out. The man was not harmed. People felt astonished at Jesus’ teaching and authority.

Later that day, Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law. That evening, Jesus laid His hands on sick people who came to Him and healed them. Demons came out of many, declaring Jesus as the Son of God.

These few verses use the Greek word *epitimao* (“rebuke”) three times. Jesus rebuked the demon (v. 35), a fever (v. 39), and many demons (v. 41) and demonstrated His divine power over the physical and spiritual effects of sin.

A Desolate Place

After ministering all night, Jesus went to a desolate place by Himself the next morning (v. 42). As Scripture reports many other times, Jesus probably went to pray and meditate.

Praying to His Father reenergized Jesus and focused Him on His mission to preach the good news of the kingdom of God. Jesus purposed to obey His Father and fulfill the prophecies written about Him.

Jesus lived out this obedience as God’s Son when He preached God’s Word, healed many afflictions, died on the cross for the sins of the world, and rose from the dead (Luke 24:44–47).

We have the privilege of praying to our Lord too, and in Jesus’ name. We can tell Him anything. Our Lord hears and answers (Psalm 17:6). We also have the privilege of hearing from God in the Bible. In His Word, we see His heart, mercy, goodness, grace, and love for us.

Prayer

Jesus, gracious Savior, help us to know and trust Your Word and actions for us. In Your name we pray. Amen.



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Law/Gospel

In my sin, I fail to recognize and ask for what I need most: forgiveness. **Christ knows what I need—forgiveness, life, and salvation—and He bestows these gifts even without my asking.**

Bible Words

And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”
Mark 2:5

Fun Facts

The city of Capernaum became Jesus’ headquarters during His ministry in Galilee. Matthew says He lived at this seaside town (Matthew 4:13). He often taught in its synagogue and healed many people in this area, including a Roman centurion’s servant, Peter’s mother-in-law, lepers, and people oppressed by demons. He also raised Jairus’s daughter from death to life.

Jesus Heals a Man Who Is Paralyzed

Mark 2:1–12

By the grace of God, medical research continues making incredible strides in treating paralysis. Robotic exoskeletons allow people to stand and walk. Computers facilitate communication. Motor cortex implants, similar to heart pacemakers, aim to control assisted devices.

It’s hard to imagine the challenges of paralysis in the ancient world. The Gospels say Jesus healed many paralyzed people, but one man stands out because of the passion of his friends.

A huge crowd had jammed into a Capernaum home to hear Jesus preach. Four men carrying a paralytic friend saw no room for more, so they found another way. Taking the outside stairs to a flat roof, they removed the roof’s layers of clay and branches above Jesus and lowered their friend down on his bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (v. 5).

Jesus’ words alarmed some religious scribes sitting there. Silently, they questioned Jesus’ words because only God could forgive sins. Knowing their thoughts, Jesus asked which was easier, to forgive sins or to tell the man to stand up and walk. Not waiting for an answer, Jesus said He wanted them to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. So He did both, telling the man, “Rise, pick up your bed, and go home” (v. 11).

Immediately, the man rose up, picked up his bed, and left! People couldn’t believe their eyes. They were amazed and glorified God.

Jesus forgave and healed the paralytic. He forgives and heals us too through His perfect life, death, and resurrection.

Who Is the Son of Man?

Jesus called Himself the “Son of Man.” This title refers to a messianic vision of the prophet Daniel. “As a messianic title, it combines the ideas of a servant who will suffer and die for all people (Is 53; Mt 20:28) and the exalted Son of Man, whose reign is everlasting” (*The Lutheran Study Bible*, p. 2098).

Prayer

Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God, forgive and heal us in Your name. Amen.

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New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

If I say I have no sin, I deceive myself, and the truth is not in me. **Jesus is the friend of sinners, who says to me, "Fear not, I am faithful and just to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness."**

Bible Words

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
1 Timothy 1:15

Fun Facts

Like many people in the Bible, Matthew has two different names. The Gospels of Mark and Luke call him Levi in the accounts of Jesus calling him (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27), but their lists of the twelve apostles call him Matthew.

Sing

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
(LSB 770:1)

Jesus Calls Matthew

Mark 2:13–17

The Jewish people hated the Romans who occupied their sacred land. They choked at paying taxes for Roman roads and building projects. And they hated traitorous Jewish tax collectors who worked for Rome.

Tax collectors often cheated or overcharged people. The Jews called them sinners, meaning they were ceremonially unclean and not allowed in the synagogues or temple. Many became very wealthy social outcasts.

Levi worked at a tax collector booth at Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee. He probably collected a toll on goods on the Via Maris, a major road running from Damascus in the north to the Egyptian coast in the south. Traders paid tolls here upon entering the territory of Herod Antipas.

Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee, was Jesus' home during this part of His ministry. He taught by the sea, and large crowds followed Him.

One day Jesus passed by Levi's tax booth and told him, "Follow Me." Levi got up and went. He threw a party at his home for Jesus and His many followers plus Levi's own friends, tax collectors and sinners.

The party drew the scorn of scribes associated with the Pharisees who questioned Jesus' actions. How could this rabbi share a meal with sinners? (You can almost hear them spit the words.)

Pharisees considered those who didn't follow their strict purity rules to be sinners. Eating with a Gentile or sinner was especially wrong because sharing a meal indicated an intimate friendship.

Jesus rejected their view. Comforting sinners then and today, Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17).

People who think they are good enough don't see the need for a Savior. People who realize they sin know they need help. That's why Jesus suffered and died on the cross to pay for our sin and rose to give us new life. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for befriending sinners. Thank You for giving us forgiveness and life through Your Word and Sacraments. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

Sin causes me to fear and doubt that God cares for or loves me. My fears suffocate faith and lead me to despair and hopelessness.

God's Son, who suffered and died for me, is the proof that God cares for me and will never leave me nor forsake me.

Bible Words

[Jesus said,] "Do not fear, only believe."

Mark 5:36

Fun Facts

Fishing boats on the Sea of Galilee often were made of cypress and cedar, both available nearby. Usually about twenty-five feet long and seven feet across, boats had two or three seats from side to side and a space near the middle for casting nets. Oars or sails moved a boat. At the stern, or back, a raised platform provided another seat. Owners stored cushions underneath to rest on during a long night of net fishing. Jesus rested on a cushion like this during the storm that frightened the disciples.

Jesus Calms a Storm

Mark 4:35–41

Squalls develop quickly and violently on the Sea of Galilee. Surrounded by high hills, the sea lies 680 feet below sea level. When the cool, dry air of the mountains meets the warm, moist air of the sea, storms develop. A sudden storm once arose around several boats carrying Jesus and His disciples.

Many people had gathered to hear Jesus that day, so He got into a boat to teach the people onshore (Mark 4:1). When evening came, Jesus wanted to go to the other side of the lake. Several other boats traveled along.

A great windstorm arose, making large waves that started to fill the boat. Despite the ruckus, Jesus slept soundly on a cushion in the back of the boat. The disciples finally woke Him, saying, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (v. 38).

Jesus woke up, rebuked the wind, and commanded the sea to be still. The wind ceased and the sea calmed. Jesus turned to His disciples and asked, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" (v. 40).

The power of their amazing rabbi frightened the disciples more than the storm. Filled with great fear, they asked one another who this man was, that even the wind and sea obeyed Him. It took time to sink in, but the Holy Spirit helped the disciples understand that Jesus is the Son of God.

The One who quieted nature's bluster gave up His own life to pay the price for our sins. The One who loved sinners proved it on the cross. The One who surrendered claimed victory over sin, death, and the devil when He rose from the dead. Who is this? Our Lord and God, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Jesus, we believe in You; help our unbelief. Help us understand Your life, death, and resurrection as the sacrifice that sets us free and gives us new life. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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Law/Gospel

Because of my sin, I fall short of the glory of God and deserve only death, the required price for sin.

Jesus, the God-man, is life.

Victorious over sin, death, and the grave, He forgives my sins and gives me life eternal through His Word and Sacraments.

Bible Words

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Quotable

“Only by faith does one grasp the mystery that salvation in all its ramifications comes through Jesus, God made flesh. . . . Faith is the means by which *anyone* now may enter the family of Jesus ([Luke] 8:19–21). Essentially, this is the same word Jesus spoke to Jairus: ‘Do not fear, only believe, and she will be saved’ (8:50). To believe in the possibility of resurrection for his daughter takes faith. But . . . the greatest act of faith is to believe that [our] own eternal resurrection depends on the bodily resurrection of Jesus.”

Arthur A. Just Jr., *Luke 1:1–9:50*, Concordia Commentary, pp. 373–74, copyright © 1996 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Jesus Heals Jairus’s Daughter

Mark 5:21–24, 35–43

Jairus was one of the rulers of a synagogue, probably in Capernaum. Synagogue rulers kept order, cared for the facility, oversaw instruction of young people and worship, read the Scriptures aloud, and taught or recruited others to do so.

Jairus and a large crowd met Jesus when He returned to Capernaum after a short trip. Falling at Jesus’ feet, Jairus implored Jesus to come to his home because his twelve-year-old daughter was dying. Jesus agreed.

The crowd impeded their progress. Jesus delayed to heal and interact with a woman who had hemorrhaged for twelve years. We can only imagine Jairus’s anxious waiting. His worst fears materialized when messengers from his home said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” (Mark 5:35).

Overhearing, Jesus said, “Do not fear, only believe” (v. 36).

Jesus made the crowd stay and went to Jairus’s house with only Jairus, Peter, James, and John. Upon their arrival, Jesus saw a loud commotion. People wept and wailed loudly. Jesus asked why they wept. He said the girl was not dead, but sleeping.

Jesus knew the little girl was dead, but it is as easy for Him to raise the dead as it is to rouse a sleeper. The Bible often describes death as sleep. The mourners knew the girl was dead too, and showed it by laughing at Jesus’ words.

Jesus put them all outside and took the girl’s parents and the three disciples to her. Taking her hand, Jesus said, “*Talitha cumi*,” which is Aramaic for “Little girl, I say to you, arise” (v. 41). She did. Jesus told her parents to give the girl something to eat.

By divine words and touch, Jesus thwarted death and enlivened the girl’s body. By divine Word and sacramental touch, Jesus does the same for us. In Baptism, we are crucified with Christ, buried, and raised with Him (Romans 6:1–4). His body and blood in the Lord’s Supper offer the food of eternal life. His absolution enlivens body and soul.

Prayer

Jesus, Lord of life, enliven our faith and keep us close to You.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

The First Commandment tells me that I should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. **Jesus kept the First Commandment perfectly for me, and when I sink in unbelief, His faithful hand grabs me, pulls me up, and forgives me.**

Bible Words

[Jesus says,] "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."
Matthew 14:27

Dig Deeper

How do we pray? Sometimes we pray quickly and desperately, as Peter did in this account. Some prayers are written for worship or memorized, such as the Lord's Prayer or Luther's Morning Prayer. At other times, we pray to God freely, telling Him our concerns and anxieties, and asking for His help because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). We pray in Jesus' name as He told us (John 14:13-14). We pray for His will to be done. We pray with confidence that the Lord answers and gives what we ask or something better. We pray without ceasing and thank and praise God in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22-33

By now, Jesus' disciples had seen Him do unbelievable but undeniable miracles. He healed any ailment people had, showed power over nature, and even brought the dead back to life.

After shredding the laws of nature by feeding 5,000 men plus women and children with five small loaves and two small fish, Jesus made His disciples get into a boat and head for the other side of the lake. John 6:15 says Jesus did this because the people wanted to make Him king by force. Jesus dismissed the crowds and went up the mountain alone to pray.

When evening came, Jesus was alone. A long way from land, the boat struggled against the wind and battled the waves. In the fourth watch, between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., Jesus went to His disciples, walking on the sea. The disciples saw Him and thought He was a ghost. They were terrified!

Jesus cried out, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).

Peter demanded proof. "If it is You, command me to come to You on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on water to Jesus. Then he saw the wind and waves and felt afraid. Beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately obliged and said, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they entered the boat, the wind ceased (cf. vv. 28-32).

In response, the disciples worshiped Jesus, saying "Truly You are the Son of God" (v. 33).

The testimonies of many people and Jesus' own words and miracles reveal that He is the Messiah and God. Faith in Jesus as our Savior, a gift of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word and Sacraments, saves us from sin and gives us the promise of a new, eternal life with our Lord.

Prayer

Lord, save us when we drown in sin, doubt, anxiety, or pain. Give us faith to trust and follow You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 2
Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

Sin has blinded my eyes so that I cannot see or believe in Jesus.

In His Word and Sacraments, Jesus gives me eyes of faith so that I can believe in Him as my Savior and trust His love for me.

Bible Words

Though I was blind, now I see.
John 9:25

Messianic Prophecies and Fulfillments

Isaiah 42:1, 6-7: Behold My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen, in whom My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. . . . I am the LORD; I have called You in righteousness; I will take You by the hand and keep You; I will give You as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Luke 3:22: The Holy Spirit descended on [Jesus] in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

John 9:5: [Jesus said,] "I am the light of the world."

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

John 9

Never before had anyone given sight to someone born blind. But Jesus did. His act of mercy convicted some and confounded many.

Right before this, Jesus had a major conflict with the Pharisees in the temple. Jesus proclaimed His preexistence and deity, saying, "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). Aghast, the Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy and tried to stone Him, but He escaped.

Near the temple, Jesus passed a beggar, blind from birth. The disciples asked who had sinned to deserve this curse, the man or his parents. Jesus said neither, but the man was blind so "that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3). Jesus spit on the ground, made mud, and put it on the man's eyes. He told the man to wash in the pool of Siloam.

The man washed and came back seeing. Neighbors saw him and asked what happened. When he told them about Jesus, they took the man to the Pharisees for an official opinion. The Pharisees did not believe the man had been blind or that Jesus had given him sight.

They sent for his parents, who confirmed his blindness but could not tell how he changed. Angrily, the Pharisees brought the man back and grilled him again. They argued about who Jesus was and how He did this. The man testified that the miracle showed Jesus was from God.

Furious, the Pharisees insulted the man and threw him out, probably taking away his rights to attend the synagogue and temple.

Jesus found the man and asked if he believed in the Son of Man (a messianic name). The man asked who the Son of Man was. Jesus said He was speaking to him. The man replied, "Lord, I believe" and worshiped Him.

Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind" (v. 39). Some Pharisees heard Him and asked, "Are we blind?" Jesus said if they were, they would have no guilt, but since they claimed to see, their guilt remained.

The Pharisees refused to acknowledge their sin and need for a Savior. Only those who understand the blindness of sin can see their need for Jesus.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, open our eyes so that we can see Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

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