



HOW CAN YOU REACH YOUR GOAL WHEN YOU ARE VERY AFRAID?

Slide 1

If I tell you **Slide 2** F. **Slide 3** E. **Slide 4** A. **Slide 5** R., does that mean anything to you? Yes, **Slide 6** FEAR! Fear, panic, **Slide 7** you certainly have experienced it? Haven't you? Have you ever been afraid? You know, **Slide 8** sometimes because we are afraid we cannot do what we want to do, we can no longer move forward. We do not succeed in reaching our goal. It's not just children who are afraid, **Slide 9** adults also experience fear; **Slide 10** the fear of not succeeding, the fear of making a mistake, **Slide 11** of being ill, of being alone, **Slide 12** of losing a friend or their work.

Do you know **Slide 13** that Jesus talks to us about fear? But he also tells us about his power. In the story that Michel is going to tell us, you will see how he knows how **Slide 14** to encourage us to trust him to achieve the goal.

Let us now listen to this adventure which happened to his disciples. You will find it **Slide 15** at chapter 14 of the Gospel **Slide 16** of Matthew. Then you can answer my question: **Slide 17** What can I do when I'm afraid?

Slide 18 PANIC IN THE BOAT!

Slide 19 Peter, John, James, Philip and the other disciples spent a wonderful day with a crowd of people who came to listen to Jesus. And finally they witnessed an extraordinary miracle.

Slide 20 With the five buns and the two fish a young boy gave him **Slide 21** Jesus fed more than ten thousand people. When everyone had finished eating **Slide 22** twelve large baskets were filled with the remaining pieces.

Imagine the joy of all these people:

Slide 23 - He does wonderful things for us and our families some say.

- It is God who sends him to us say the others.

Slide 24 - Yes, Jesus is truly the one God had promised.

Slide 25 - He must become our king!

Yes, they would like Jesus to become their king, but that is not God's plan.

Slide 26 - Get into the boat, said Jesus to his disciples. I will send this entire crowd away, we must

let them go home now, it's late. You go now before me. **Slide 27** Go to the opposite shore, on the other side of the lake!

Slide 28 And here is the goal to be reached: the other side of the lake:

Slide 29 - No problem, think the disciples, we know this large lake and we are used to sail on it, we know **Slide 30** how to do it.

Yes, most of them are fishing sailors. So off they go.

Slide 31 Jesus sends all these people home and he walks away from the shore. **Slide 32** He goes up the hill.

Why is he getting out of the way? To be **Slide 33** alone with God his Father, to speak to him, to pray.

Slide 34 It is dark now and the weather is suddenly changing. Not a single star can be seen; big black clouds suddenly arrive pushed by a violent wind which raises strong waves. **Slide 35** Pierre and his friends are now in the middle of the lake and their boat is rocked by those big waves.

Slide 36 - This wind is too strong, they cried. **Slide 37** It is driving us adrift! We are no longer moving forward.

Slide 38 We have to row harder.

But the boat is tossed about on all sides like a walnut shell lost on this lake. The wind howls all it can! The disciples are overcome with fear.

Slide 39 - We will never reach the goal, the storm is too strong, this time we are finished, they say to themselves.

Slide 40 Around three in the morning, in this terribly dark night, **Slide 41** they see a white shape that advances towards them, a human silhouette walking on the raging waves and approaching the boat

Slide 42 - It's a ghost, it's a ghost, **Slide 43** Help, help!

Slide 44 - But, no, don't worry, **Slide 45** it's me, don't be afraid!

Slide 46 It's the voice of Jesus! They recognize it:

Slide 47 - Lord, says Peter, if it is really you, then order me to come and join you on the water.

Slide 48 - Come, Jesus says to him.

Under the astonished gaze of the disciples, **Slide 49** Peter climbs over the boat and puts one foot on the water. He does not sink in! He puts the second foot down and quite naturally, he begins to walk on the water towards Jesus. Imagine, He walks on water just like one walks on earth and he thus advances towards Jesus.

Suddenly, what does he notice around him? **Slide 50** The wind that keeps blowing ever so violently,

Slide 51 the waves splashing him, the night so dark. **Slide 52** Fear seizes him, he feels his feet starting to sink in, he's about to sink. **Slide 53** Is he going to drown?

Slide 54 - Help, Lord! **Slide 55** Save me!

Immediately, **Slide 56** Jesus reaches out to him and catches up with him. Peter can walk on water again, **Slide 57** next to Jesus he is saved.

Slide 58 - Your faith is very small, Jesus says to him, why did you hesitate?

Slide 59 They both get into the boat; the wind is falling, no more waves, no more storms. Everything becomes calm and peaceful again. And immediately, they dock at the very place they were supposed to go. **Slide 60** They have reached the goal that Jesus had fixed them.

The disciples are upset, they come to bow, bow down to Jesus:

Slide 61 - You are truly the Son of God they tell him.

Slide 62 **1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

Slide 63 Like Peter, John, James and all the other disciples, **Slide 64** I too say:

- Jesus, You are truly the Son of God.

Slide 65 And you, can you say it? **Slide 66** It might happen that one day you are scared, very scared,

Slide 67 so what are you going to do? This is our question. Well! Remember this gospel story and do like Peter, **Slide 68** ask Jesus to come to your aid. He will help you reach the goal. How? I don't know but **Slide 69** you can trust him.

Slide 70 **4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

*This crossing of the lake ... would it make us think **Slide 71** of the journey of life?*

Crossings without storms, is it possible? We can doubt that, right?

Jesus has set a goal for us, a meeting, he is waiting for us on the other side but he has not said that the crossing, the journey will be without difficulties.

If we do the crossing on our own, we risk exhausting ourselves. Jesus has the power to help us so that we can reach the goal, the port where he awaits us.

Slide 72 I wish you a safe trip for you and your children.

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