

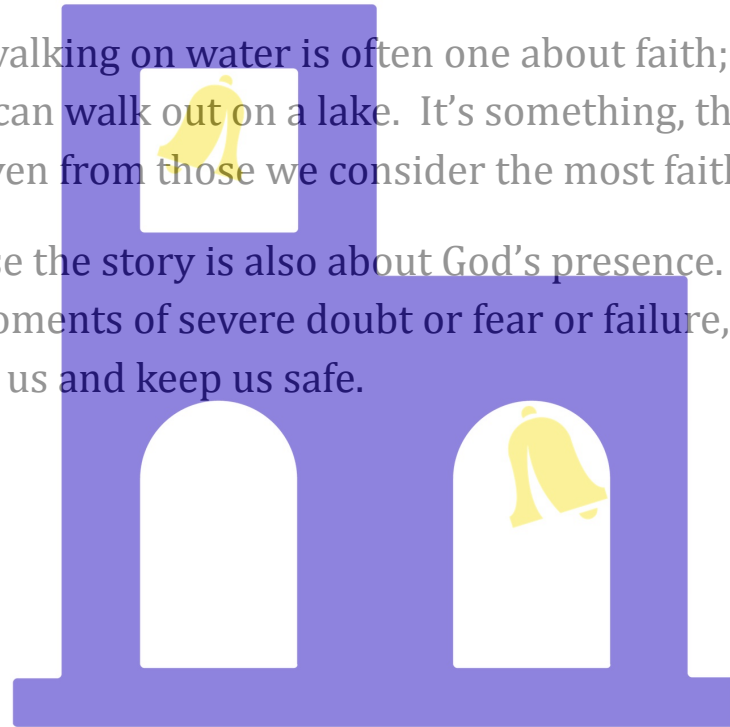
Summary to

Swalking

by Jonathan Bing

The story of walking on water is often one about faith; with enough faith, anyone can walk out on a lake. It's something, though, we've never seen, even from those we consider the most faithful.

This is because the story is also about God's presence. When we have those moments of severe doubt or fear or failure, God's hand is there to catch us and keep us safe.



Arches 'n
Bells

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Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Theme: Grace, support in time of need.

Time Needed to Perform: 4-9 minutes

What going on? The swim team is practicing and the coach pulls everyone out of the water to teach them a secret stroke: "swalking."

When is it all happening? Present day during swim team practice.

Who are the characters? This skit can be performed with 3 to 10 (or more) as necessary.

- Coach
- Swimmer 1
- Swimmer 2
- Swimmer 3 (Optional)
- Teammates (As many as desired)

How should this play or skit be performed? The actors should help the congregation imagine that the action is occurring near the starting-block end of the pool. The coach walks back and forth along the pool (parallel to the altar), while the swimmers and teammates do imaginary laps. The laps can be done with teammates pushing the swimmers on utility carts, coffee caddies or by linking arms and carrying the swimmers.

What props will we need? Workout gear (not swimwear). Optional: whistle for coach, stopwatch for coach, line of chairs to simulate starting blocks, blue sheets to simulate water.

Setting: Swimming pool during swim team practice.

SCRIPT:

[The team is in the middle of a practice. Swimmers are moving back and forth before the congregation using various strokes. The coach is watching his team and checking his stopwatch.]

Coach:

[Blows whistle or claps hands several times.]

Okay everyone, out of the pool. Out of the pool. Gather 'round by me.

[The team gathers by the starting blocks.]

Swimmer 1:

How'd we do, coach?

Coach:

Really good. I love to see you all pushing it. Ignore those negative voices that say you can't do it.

Swimmer 2:

So, what's our chance this weekend? Are we gonna win?

Coach:

Oh, you're going to win—I promise you that. But first, I have to teach you a special stroke.

Swimmer 3 (or Swimmer 1):

What special stroke? We know them all.

Coach:

Yep, and in all of them, you're fighting things that slow you down in the water. Like, drag. Like the force of water pushing back against your push. Friction and gravity. Even the things that hold you back, like fear. You know what I mean?

Teammates:

[Confused but nod heads.]

Swimmer 1:

[Skeptically]

So you have a way to get through water without drag?

Coach:

I do. It's called Swalking. Swim-walking. Swalking. I invented it. All you need to do is walk across the top of the water.

Swimmer 2:

Yeah, no. That's not going to work.

Coach:

Trust me. It works. Watch.

[Steps from the starting block and walks down the imaginary lane of water and back to the starting block.]

Well, what do you think? Give it a try.

Swimmer 3 (or Swimmer 1):

I'm out.

Swimmer 2:

That will not be my stroke.

Swimmer 1:

I'll give it a try.

Swimmer 2:

You're nuts. There's no such stroke because it's not possible.

Swimmer 1:

[To Swimmer 2.]

I'm ignoring negative voices that say I can't do it.

So, coach, show me how.

Coach:

Here's what you got to know. First, I believe in you. Everything about you.

Second, believe in me. Believe me when I say you can do this.



And finally—know this: my hand will always—always—catch you.

Ready? Go.

Swimmer 1:

[Walks a short way across water.]

Ha ha ha, look at this. I'm doing it! I'm Swalking! Oh, wow. This feels weird. *[Starts to bend down as if sinking in the water.]* I'm not sure. Dang. My feet are wet. Now my knees. I'm going down.

Coach:

[Taking Swimmer 1 by the hand. Swimmer 1 stands back up and keeps walking.]

You think I'm going to fail you. I'm not going to fail you. Ever.

Faith. That's all my hand is. It's giving you faith when you don't have any left.

Even when you don't see me near, reach for my hand. I'm there.

Swimmer 1:

Okay, okay—I got this.

[Lets go of coach's hand. Talks to self.]

I know your hand is there. I know your hand is there. Ha-ha!
Swalking really works.

Come on, everyone, on the pool!

[Others step onto the imaginary lane. Coach starts out by taking each one's hands]

Coach:

There you go. Know my hand is always with you.

Good job. Keep it up.

[All swimmers get more comfortable with swalking. Once and a while, Coach takes a hands.]

Ok, bring it in. Bring it in.

[The swimmers gather around Coach.]

Just remember, I am always faithful. My hand will always be there. And we'll dominate this weekend with swalking! Any questions?

Okay then, gather up.

[The team puts their hands into the circle.]

All:

In the pool. In the air.

On the land, we don't care.

Whether we're attacked by bear.

We know God is always there.

Go-o-o-o-o, Saints!!

Arches 'n
Bells