

WILD ZONE

FISHING TOURS UNLIMITED

EELS

4

Uncle Maui took Torrance and Cooper to the mouth of the Rakaia River in Canterbury to fish for eels. They used a Maori method called "mounu" or "flax bob". They tied one end of a flax leaf to a stick. They used a piece of red meat for bait. They split the other end of the leaf in half and tied it firmly around the bait wrapping and knotting it several times. They trimmed off the loose ends of flax.

The bait attracted an eel and its teeth got caught in the flax. They quickly pulled it out of the water and killed it with a piece of wood. They skinned it and cooked it over a fire. It tasted delicious.

It was a short-finned eel. Long-finned eels have a longer fin on the top and are becoming quite rare. It's best to let these ones go.



long-finned eel



short-finned eel

WALKING ON THE WAVES

The friends of Jesus were disappointed and angry.

Jesus had said, "Let's sail across the lake and spend some time just by ourselves."

This was a great idea and they felt happy. But the people saw the boat leave and ran around the lake. When they arrived, there were all the crowds again! They felt angry because their time alone with Jesus was spoiled.

But Jesus loved people. He healed the sick ones and told them his wonderful stories all day.

When the sun was setting, Jesus' friends had had enough of crowds.

"Send the people away to get food", they said angrily.

"Let's give them something to eat," Jesus said.

"But there are 5000 families here and all we've got is this boy's lunch with five small buns and two fish. We would need hundreds of dollars to buy bread for them all."

Jesus told the people to sit in rows of 50 and 100. He thanked God and started to break the bread and fish. The more he broke it the more there was. It was a miracle. His friends gave the food to the people. Everyone had enough. When they

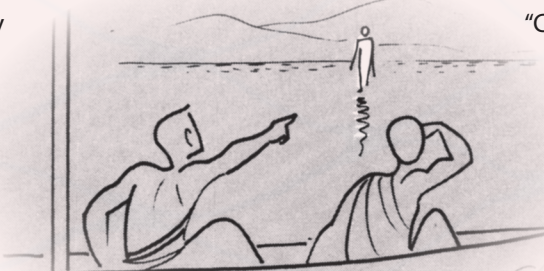
cleaned up, after the people left, the left-overs filled 12 fishing baskets. They were amazed.

Now it was dark and Jesus climbed a hill to pray. His friends got into their boat to row back. There was a strong wind and the waves were rough. Between three and six in the morning they saw someone walking on the water. They were very scared.

"It's a ghost", they screamed.

Then they heard the voice of Jesus: "It's me. Have courage. Don't be afraid."

Peter called out: "If it's really you, let me walk to you on the water."



"Come" said Jesus. Peter got out to walk on the waves to Jesus. He could do it as long as he looked to Jesus and trusted him. But then he saw the waves and felt the strong wind in the dark. He started to sink.

"Help! Save me," he shouted.

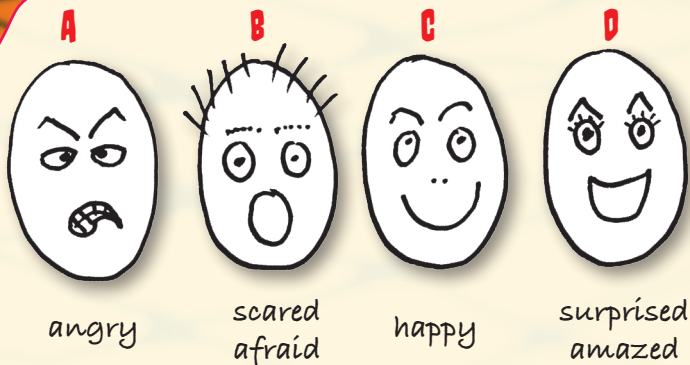
Jesus reached out, grabbed his hand and helped him into the boat. Suddenly the wind stopped and the sea became calm.

"You really are the Son of God," they all said. They were amazed.

Read the story for yourself from the Bible in Matthew 14: 13 - 33.

FACES AND FEELINGS

Here are four faces showing different feelings . . .



How did Peter and the friends of Jesus feel?
What were their faces like?

Choose a face for these parts of the story.

Write A, B, C or D next to each part. The first is done for you.

- ☒ C Jesus suggested time together by themselves.
- ☐ When they arrived the crowds were already there.
- ☐ At the end of the day they were fed up with the crowds.
- ☐ Jesus fed 5000 families from 5 buns and 2 fish!
- ☐ They thought Jesus was a ghost on the water.
- ☐ Peter started to sink in the waves.
- ☐ They were full of wonder and said, "You really are the Son of God!"

A VERSE TO LEARN

Can you read this verse? Most of the vowels have been left out.

Wh _ n I _ m _ fr _ _ d, O Lord
Alm _ ghty, I p _ t my tr _ st
_ n y _ _ .

To check, look up Psalm 56: 3 in a Good News Bible.
Copy the whole verse and learn it by heart.

FISHING FOR FACTS

Next month Torrance and Cooper go with Uncle Maui to catch crayfish.
Find out how many legs crayfish that live in the sea have and how many legs fresh-water crayfish (crawlies) that live in creeks have.

Faces and Feelings ANSWERS

1 C, 2 A, 3 A, 4 D, 5 B, 6 B, 7 D.

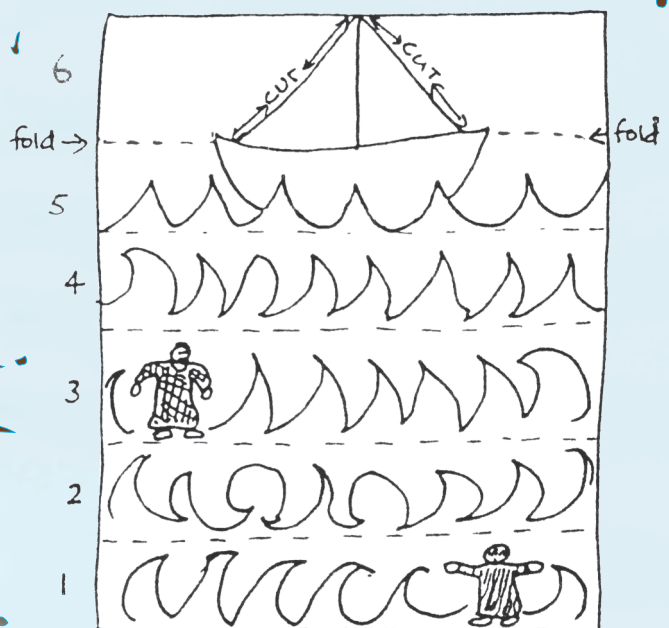
Compiled by Ron Fountain

STAND UP MODEL

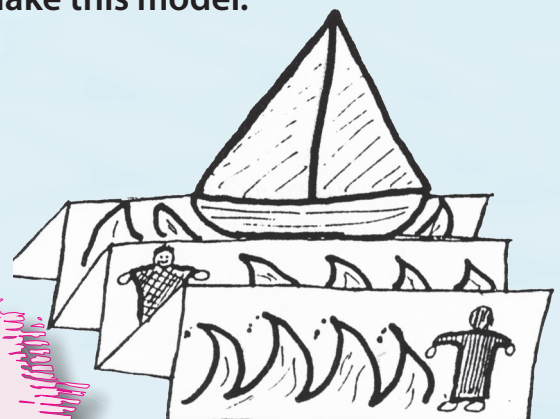
Make a stand up model of Peter walking to Jesus on the water.

You will need an A4 sheet of paper, coloured felts and scissors.

Make 6 concertina folds, unfold it and copy this picture. The sail of the boat starts right at the top of the page.



Cut the edges of the sail down to the boat and fold the outside parts back at the first fold. Fold up the rest concertina style to make this model.



A PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that however I feel,
you are always with me. Please help me
to trust you when I feel afraid. *Amen.*