

# Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

## Peter and Elf

After watching the movie, read these **questions** and the Bible passage and talk about them as a family. It's best to do this right after watching the movie but you can also do it in the next day or so. The conversation could take anywhere from 10-20 minutes but we hope that it sparks an interest in noticing and sharing God throughout your daily life.

**A Moment to Remember:** **Which moment in the movie did you like the most? Why?**

*Read this passage from the Bible (Matthew 14:22-33 NRSV):*

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

*If you have the time, take a look at this Venn Diagram and talk about whether it lines up with how you interpret the scripture and the movie (or just skip to the rest of the **questions**):*

### Peter

Disciple of Jesus.

On a mission to find his true mission in life.

Saved by Christ.

Full of belief.

Full of excitement.

Doubts himself.

Has seen the miracles first hand but still loses sight and falters.

Savior is there to hold them up.

### Buddy

Santa's elf.

On a mission to find his father.

Saves Christmas.



### **Theme in Scripture – Belief:**

After going off to pray by himself, Jesus begins to walk towards the boat of his disciples. Seeing him walking on water (something that is usually impossible), Jesus' disciples thought he was a ghost. Not trusting it was Jesus, Peter calls out to Jesus and asks Jesus to allow him to walk on water. After getting out of the boat and walking, Peter looks down and sees the waves under him and begins to doubt the miracle that is happening. As he begins to sink, he calls out to Jesus for help. After Jesus and Peter return to the boat, the disciples see that Jesus truly is the Son of God. **How do you trust God even when you cannot see God?**

### **Theme on the Screen – Belief:**

When seeing Santa's sleigh for the first time, Buddy is surprised to learn that because people have stopped believing in Santa as much, there is not enough power to make the sleigh fly just on the power of belief. By the end of the story, there is enough belief in Santa to make his sleigh fly even without the engine. When Michael asks how to get people to believe he is the real Santa, Santa says "Christmas spirit is about believing, not seeing." Believing means trusting in something without seeing it. **How do the different characters show their belief in Santa?**

### **The Scene that Says it All: Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of trust.**

**Why?** (Is it when Buddy's family believes he is an elf, or when the crowd sees Santa fly over central park?)

**Bonus question: If you worked in Santa's workshop, what kind of present would you like to make?**