

Talk: Matthew 14:30

How many games can you think of that use a ball?

Do you know what is the most important thing is very important thing to remember when playing any game that uses a ball? You have to keep your eye on the ball. If you don't keep your eye on the ball, you will spend all of your time chasing it, or worse, you might wind up with a black eye!

Today, we've learned that Isaac took his eye off the ball. He forgot to keep his eyes fixed on God. That's why he was afraid. He forgot that God was in the mix. He thought he was alone and had to sort out Abimelech on his own!

There's also a story about one of Jesus' disciples taking his eye off the ball. Jesus and his disciples had had a long, hard day. His disciples had just finished passing out food to a crowd of more than 5,000 men, women, and children. They were very tired. Jesus told the disciples to get in their boat and go to the other side of the lake. Then he sent the crowds away and went to a quiet place to be alone and pray.

Later that night, while the boat was still crossing the lake, a storm blew up and the water became really rough with humongous waves! Jesus went out to the boat walking on the water. Well, he's Jesus – he can do that sort of stuff! Anyway, when the disciples saw him they were afraid. In fact, they were terrified!

"It's a ghost," they cried.

Jesus answered, "Don't be afraid, take courage, it's me!"

Peter called out to him, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," said Jesus. So, Peter climbed out of the boat and started walking on the water toward Jesus. But when he started looking around and saw the waves being blown about by the wind. He was afraid and he began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried.

Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. "Why did you doubt?" Jesus asked.

Why do you think Peter began to sink? Well, I reckon that as he began to look around at the mess he was in, he took his eyes off of Jesus. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he was fine, but when he took his eyes off of Jesus, he began to sink.

We might experience some pretty rough times in our life. And we may even feel a bit afraid... But as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus and put our trust in him, we will be okay. But, if we take our eyes off of Jesus and put our confidence in our own ability, we're definitely going to sink!

So don't be an Isaac, and don't be a Peter! Remember to keep your eye on the ball – keep your eyes on Jesus, dare to trust him, especially when you feel afraid and out of your depth, because Jesus won't let you down.