

## Suggestions for Memorizing Matthew 14:13-22

### 1. Be “Sensible”

We all learn in a variety of ways. Some of us fall exclusively into one of the following categories. Many of us are a combination of some or all. In any case, experiment with different methods and stick with what works for you.

- **Use visuals:** If you’re a visual learner, draw pictures, write down verses on flashcards, use coloured pencils to underline or draw circles and boxes that highlight important images or repeated phrases—whatever helps you to see the scripture passage in your mind’s eye.
- **Talk ‘n’ listen:** If you’re an auditory learner, read or recite the scripture out loud. Pay attention to the tone and emotion of the voice, and observe punctuation so as to pause. Use different types of voices and accents for different characters. Don’t be afraid to get a bit goofy by making sound effects that relate to the text. Another option is to put the words to a tune that you can sing. Do what helps you to hear the text on your lips and in your ear.
- **You got to move it:** If you’re a kinesthetic learner, consider how you might give movement to the text. For example, what is the sequence of actions in the story. Act them out in order. Another option is to use the translation in American Sign Language, provided free of charge online by [Bible.is](http://Bible.is). Do what helps you to get the text into your muscles and bones.

### 2. Practice Makes Permanent

- Read Matthew 14:13-22 once or twice a day aloud. As you read, simply observe where the passage is going. Note what emotions and tone of voice the characters might use. Keep track of how many times you have read it through.
- Once you have read Matthew 14:13-22 aloud 50 times, you will likely discover that you have already memorized most of it. At this stage, jot down the reference of each verse where you make a mistake or get stuck. There might be 20 of them the first time you do this. Then review these verses (start to finish) and stroke off all those you get right. Now you might have 10 mistakes. Review these and get rid of those you get correct, etc. Do this over and over until you get the most troubling ones correct as well.
- Now start from the beginning again, seeing how many mistakes you make. Work on the problem stuff as before. Then start again . . . at this point you should pretty much know it by memory, virtually perfectly!
- Once you have your rough patches sorted out, quote through Matthew 14:13-22 at least 25 times without looking in order to fix it in your memory.

### 3. Bite-sized Portions

Tim Geddert requires his students to memorize entire books of the Bible. What follows is an adapted version of the method he recommends.

- Look at Matthew 14:13....try to say it correctly 1 time (only!). Takes a few minutes since it is about 30 words. Now you are DONE with this verse for now. No review. Now go to Matthew 14:14....try to say it correctly 1 time (only!). Do whatever

method gets it done correctly ONCE as fast as possible. Line by line, saying it out loud. When you have it, you are done (for now)! Proceed similarly through the rest of the section.

- Now start again. This time do Matthew 14:13 + 14 together, but only with as much work as it takes to get it completely correct 1 time. Then do the same for 14:15 + 16, then 14:17 + 18, etc. etc. through the whole section. It will seem like you don't remember anything from the first time around, but amazingly you will get through the section in about the same amount of time, proving it must have helped the first time around.
- Now start again doing 3 verses at a time. Guess how long it will take you? About the same length of time as before.
- Then 4 verses at a time. Then 5 verses at a time. And so on...
- By this time you will find that though you still make mistakes you can often simply keep going through all 10 verses. When you find you are at this stage, jot down the reference of each verse where you make a mistake or get stuck. There might be 10 of them the first time you do this. Then review these verses (start to finish) and stroke off all those you get right. Now you might have 6 mistakes. Review these and get rid of those you get correct, etc. Do this over and over until you get the most troubling ones correct as well.
- Now start from the beginning again, seeing how many mistakes you make. Work on the problem stuff as before. Then start again...at this point you should pretty much know it by memory, virtually perfectly!