



# **Appearing on the Shore**

**John 21:1-14**

**"Ah-ah-ah-ahhhhhhh! Popsy to the rescue!"**

**Algie ducked in time to avoid being knocked over by Popsy who was swinging through the air on a huge vine. "Popsy! You scared me senseless!" He yelled, his voice shaking from the surprise.**

**Popsy let go of the vine and landed with a thud on the hard-packed sand several feet away from Algie. He snatched a big yellow seat cushion that had fallen out of Chauncey's plane and began ripping it apart as if he were very angry at it. He let out a loud "grrrr" and as he shredded the cushion. White, fluffy stuffing flew out and looked like snow as it covered the ground.**

**Algie was stunned and ran over to yank what was left of the cushion from his father. "Popsy! Popsy, stop! Let me have that! You can't go around mangling flight gear!" He yelled as he held the cushion out of the reach of the little gray-haired man.**

**Popsy stopped grabbing for the cushion. "Sorry. You think I should pick out a bigger one?"**

**"No! You shouldn't be mangling cushions at all!" Algie exclaimed as he kneeled down and began picking up the stuffing and putting it back inside the torn cushion.**

**"Party pooper! All right, you can have the seat pillow. But, how else am I supposed to get in shape?" Popsy asked as he brushed the leaves, dirt, and stuffing from his clothes.**

**Algie shook his head. What on earth was Popsy planning now, he wondered? "Get in shape? What are you getting in shape for?" He asked hesitantly.**

**Popsy grinned and answered. "For our new business, the Bonzai Family Rescue Patrol!"**

**"Popsy, you're going to become a rescue ranger?!" Algie exclaimed, not sure what to make of this latest odd idea.**

**"No..." Popsy paused.**

**Algie signed with relief. "Good!"**

**"We're going to become rescue rangers! Welcome to the club, Ranger Algie!" Popsy finished.**

**Algie stood up quickly, letting go of the cushion as he did. The newly re- stuffed cushion burst open as it hit the ground and its contents exploded is flurry of white back onto the ground from which they had just been retrieved. "Wait just a tick, Popsy! Chauncey and I already have a business, delivering supplies to missionaries! We can't go around rescuing people as well!"**

**Popsy patted his concerned son on the back. "Not to worry, I already talked to Chauncey and we can and will do both! While we're delivering supplies we can rescue people in trouble!"**

**"No, we can't!" Algie argued loudly.**

**"Sure we can!"**

**"No, Popsy!" Algie repeated firmly. Then he paused and said. "I don't mean you can't, I mean...well...You know Mumsy's never going to go for this!" He finished quickly, running out of arguments against the idea.**

**"That's where you are wrong son! She already has! She's even designed our logo!" Popsy pulled out an embroidered shirt showing the family running with their fists in the air ready for battle.**

**Algie wasn't ready to give in that quickly. He didn't feel brave enough to go and fight pirates and rescue their captives. He tried another approach. "Well...if we leave whose gonna protect Pepper?"**

**"Pepper's on the team. Mumsy's giving him his first Kung Fu lesson right now." Popsy assured him.**

**"I see...well...who'll be left to feed 800 Pound Gorilla?"**

**"Nice try son but you're still not getting out of this! 800 Pound Gorilla's going to fly the helicopter. Boy, did Mumsy have a hard time making a jacket to fit him! Come on, Algie, what's the real problem? Why don't you want to be a rescue ranger?"**

**Algie turned red with embarrassment. "Well...the problem is...um, it's just that... Oh Popsy, I'm frightened!"**

**Popsy looked surprised. "Scared? You're a Bonzai? What are you afraid of?"**

**"I don't know..." Algie stopped and looked at the rock he was pushing with the tip of his shoe. "I don't want to leave the island. I'm afraid I won't know what to do!"**

**"Is that all? That's nothin' new. We all get scared sometimes." Popsy assured him.**

**Algie looked up at his father. He couldn't believe his crocodile wrassling, pirate catching, swashbuckling father could ever be afraid of anything! "We do? Even you?"**

**"Well, no. Not me," Popsy denied. "But everyone else does. Okay, I'll tell you the truth. I got scared once too. But it's nothin' to be ashamed of, even Peter got scared."**

**"Peter, the disciple? But, I thought he was a big, strong, muscle-ly fisherman." Algie noted.**

**"Aye, he was. Many of the apostles were big, muscle-ly fishermen. But they still got scared. Let me show you. Get the Bible out."**

**"I'll get it right now! This I gotta see!" Algie reached into his pocket and pulled out the little Bible he always carried with him.**

**Popsy reached for the Bible and flipped through the pages. "Here we go, in Matthew 14. This happened one day after Jesus had spent the whole day preaching. He sent His disciples ahead of Him to take a boat across the Sea of Galilee. Late in the day, the disciples launched their boat into the sea while Jesus went up on a mountainside to pray. The disciples were alone on the deep sea in the dark of night. Just then a mighty wind began to blow. The wind was howlin'!"**

**Popsy paused for effect and looked at Algie who was fascinated with the story that he was shaking. "Oh no Popsy, what happened next? Actually, I'm afraid to know," he added.**

**"The disciples were afraid, too!" Popsy continued, "I imagine the waves were crashing over the bow of their wee little boat! The rough seas were tossin' that boat all over the place!**

**"What did they do?!" Algie asked nervously.**

**"They looked out over the water and they saw a man walking towards them," he replied.**

**"What?! Walking on the water! Were they frightened?!"**

**Popsy nodded. "They were terrified! They thought it was a ghost!" He continued with the story. "Then Jesus said, 'Don't be afraid.'**

**Peter said, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water." So Jesus said, "Come." Then Peter got out of the boat and walked toward Jesus. And Peter said, 'Lord, it's you!'"**

**"What?! Peter walked on water too?!" Algie gasped.**

**"Aye, it's all true! But Peter started to have some problems. The Bible says, 'But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and began to sink; he cried out, "Lord, save me!"'"**

**"Did Jesus save him?! Did He?!" Algie asked, excited that this story might turn out well.**

**"Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. It was a miracle!" Popsy replied.**

**"A miracle!" Algie said, thrilled with the end of the story. "Popsy, Jesus walked on water, and He saved Peter and the disciples from the wind and the waves!"**

**Popsy reached over and patted Algie on the back. "That's what I've been tryin' to tell ya, boy-o! When we are facin' danger, Jesus is always there! We keep our eyes on our Lord, not on our fear!**

**Algie suddenly understood what Popsy was trying to teach him. "Oh! That's how Jesus works in my life! Whenever I'm in danger, Jesus finds me and saves me and, as long as I keep my eyes on Jesus, I won't be afraid."**

**"So, you're not afraid at all?" Popsy asked.**

**Algie shook his head confidently, "When I stay focused on Jesus, I'm not afraid of anything!"**

**Popsy questioned further. "Not even being a rescue ranger?"**

**"No sir! Popsy, I'm ready to join the team!" Algie said as he saluted then flexed his muscles and practiced his rescuer poses.**

**Popsy gave him a big hug. "Welcome aboard, son! Together, we Bonzais are gonna be incredible!"**

**Algie hugged his father back. "Well, you know the Bonzai motto! It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do! Let's go share this story with the rest of our family! Have we had any calls for help yet?"**