

Week of August 13, 2023

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

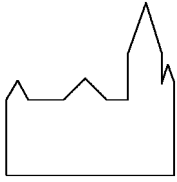
²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What do you remember praying for when you were a child?
- B. What are you better at than you ever thought you would be?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus needs his "alone time" to pray? What do you imagine his prayer life is like?
2.
 - a. Why do you think the disciples found it so difficult to believe that it was Jesus on the water?
 - b. Should his "track record" of miracles to this point (he has healed paralytics, blind men, fed the 5,000, etc.) have conditioned them to accept miracles?
 - c. Does God have a "track record" of helping you? Has this made you confident of God's help in the future?
3. Have you ever asked or challenged God to give proof to you? What were the circumstances and the results?
4. How do you feel about Peter's doubts catching up with him while he was on the water? When have you been scared by your own accomplishment?
5. Is there a quality that you feel you lack, that would significantly enhance your life if you had it? Have you prayed for it?
6. Pastor Craig Groeschel (Life.Church) says, "Don't insult God with small thinking." What do you think about that? How could it apply to your life?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways in which each person can become more than what they were.