

Matthew 14:22-33
Jesus First

Warm Up

Who is your favourite Christian “hero” of the 18th-21st century? EG: Gladys Aylward, Jackie Pullinger, Nicky Cruz, Jim Elliott, or anyone else? What is it about these people that inspires you or stirs your heart?

Background and context

Jesus had just performed an extraordinary miracle in feeding over 5000 people. He sends His disciples away to cross the lake whilst He goes off to find some solitude and pray. This context is important. The disciples had witnessed Jesus’ tremendous power, He now sends them away. They are without Jesus’ physical presence. They soon discover that they will face difficulties even though they were being obedient. Many of the disciples were experienced fishermen, so the stormy conditions were not unusual. When Jesus comes to them in the early hours of the morning, they are terrified. We have to ask why? Their faith in Jesus to help them did not include Him walking on water. They had limited His power in their minds. Peter demonstrates great faith in stepping out into the storm sea and even when he begins to sink, Jesus rescues him. He was always safe in Jesus’ presence.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Matthew 14:22-33 What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don’t you really understand?

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1. Why do you think Jesus chose to find solitude up a mountain rather than be in the boat? Consider John 6:15
 2. **Look at v22.** Which phrase should have given the disciples confidence that, despite the stormy weather they encountered, they would see Jesus again?
 3. How should that help us in our walk with Jesus?
 4. Why do you think the disciples were afraid of Jesus on the water? How would you respond?
 5. The disciples were safe on the boat, despite the strong winds. Why do you think Peter wanted to step out?
 6. What do you think you might have done, given similar circumstances?
 7. What three things does Jesus say that convinced Peter to step out in faith?
 8. How might those three things help us “step out” of our boat?
 9. What are the “boats” that people feel safe in that perhaps the Lord is asking them to step out from?
 10. Peter was the only one to step out. Does that make him better or the others worse in their faith?

Discipleship and Application

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11. Prayerfully consider what are “the boats” that Jesus might be asking you to step out from?
 12. What is hold you back from stepping out?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.

Fancy a different approach to Bible study?

Try these ways of exploring a passage.

S.O.A.P.

S. Scripture

Read and/or write out the verse or passage.

O. Observe

What do you notice about the passage? Write notes down.

A. Apply

What do I need to do in my life to apply the teaching?

P. Pray

Pray about the reading. Ask God to help you apply it to your life.

Or this way....

What does the passage teach about God or Jesus?

What does it teach about humans? (Therefore me)

How do I apply in my life what I have learned today?

How about this way?

The 6 Ps

Position yourself to hear from God.

Pore over the passage and paraphrase it

Pull out the principles and teachings

Pose questions

Plan obedience

Pray about your study

Just one more...

Apple



Atttributes of God/Jesus

Promises of God

Pinciples to live by

Lessons to be learned

Examples to follow

In this method look for one or more of the five themes. They may not all be there.

If your group is creative or artistic... why not do an evening of Bible journalling. Create a piece of art or poetry based on a bible passage or verse.