



Rooted

South Sub Church

September 21, 2025

Eyes on Jesus: Keep Looking Up

Matthew 14:22-33 (NLT)

Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. ²⁴Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" ²⁷But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" ²⁸Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." ²⁹"Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. ³¹Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" ³²When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

Sermon Summary:

Rooted is a 10-week journey through the life of the Apostle Peter, following his story as he learns to walk with Jesus. Each week, we'll step into a defining moment of Peter's life—his failures, his victories, his doubts, and his bold faith—and discover how God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. *Rooted* will help you grow deeper in faith, find strength in trials, and embrace the life God has called you to live. Whether you're brand new to faith or have been walking with Christ for years, this series will ground you in truth and inspire you to live boldly for Jesus.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What's the most adventurous or risky thing you've ever tried?
2. What's your go-to reaction when you feel afraid—freeze, fight, or run?
3. Who is someone you've trusted to guide or support you in a tough time?
4. Describe a time you stepped out of your "comfort zone"?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. What did Jesus do while the disciples were on the boat crossing the lake?
2. Around what time of night did Jesus come toward the disciples walking on the water?
3. How did the disciples initially react when they saw Jesus walking on the water?
4. What words did Jesus use to calm their fears?
5. What condition did Peter place on his request to step out of the boat?

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6. What happened to Peter when he noticed the strong wind and waves?
7. What did Peter cry out to Jesus when he began to sink?
8. How did Jesus respond to Peter's cry for help?
9. How did the disciples respond after witnessing Jesus calm the storm?
10. What declaration did the disciples make about Jesus at the end of the passage?

Interpretive Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to pray alone on the mountain instead of staying with the disciples?
2. Why do you think the disciples mistook Jesus for a ghost when He walked on the water?
3. What does Peter's request to walk on the water reveal about his faith and his doubts?
4. Why do you think Peter began to sink as soon as he focused on the wind and waves?
5. What does this passage teach us about the relationship between fear, faith, and recognizing Jesus' presence in our lives?

Application Questions:

1. When you pray, do you find yourself holding anything back or "editing" your words for God? Why or why not?
2. The sermon shared the difference between "vending machine" and "coffee shop" approaches to prayer. Which describes your prayer life right now? Why?
3. What would it look like for you to make prayer more about worship and dependence than just requesting things from God this week?
4. The disciples experienced fear, doubt, and uncertainty while facing the storm. Can you recall a time in your life when your circumstances made it hard to trust God? How did you respond in prayer during that season?
5. The sermon highlighted that prayer should be "raw"—full of real emotions, not polished performances. Do you try to present a filtered version of yourself to God? What might change if you approached God with complete honesty?
6. Reflecting on the three characteristics of prayer—raw, transformative, grounding—which area do you find most challenging, and what first step could you take to grow in that aspect?