

ENCOUNTERS

Peter Walks on Water

Growth Group Opener:

When has fear ever pulled your attention away from what you knew to be true?

Read Matthew 14:22-33

How does it reshape how you read this story to notice that Jesus “made” (compelled) the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him?

Compare and contrast this storm to the one in Matthew 8:23-27.
What difference do you see in the disciples’ response to Jesus?

Sometimes God sends us into storms to correct us (like Jonah), and other times to perfect us. Which do you think this storm might be and why?

What comes up in you, knowing that sometimes Jesus sends us into storms, rather than around them? What does that reveal about how he is forming us?

What is Jesus’ response to the fear of the disciples?
What is he offering them that is greater than stopping the storm?

Where might you need to trust Jesus’ presence more than his intervention right now?

What happened in v30 that caused Peter to start to sink?
What can that tell us about how faith is sustained (or lost) in the middle of obedience?

Peter’s 3-word prayer in v30 was short and to the point, but sufficient.
What does this tell us about the kind of prayer that reaches Jesus?

What do we learn about God from this passage?

Where in your life might Jesus be inviting you to step out of the boat, to walk where he is walking, even in the midst of a storm?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for inviting us to walk with you, regardless of what is going on around us. We thank you for your presence with us as we walk through the storms of life. Help us to navigate them by keeping our eyes fixed on you. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Dig Deeper:

This week, name a storm that you are in, perhaps one that the Lord has sent you into, and instead of asking Jesus to end it, ask him daily to make his presence more real to you than the wind and the waves. At the end of the week: take notice of how you may have changed the way you are walking through it.