

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Matthew 14:22-33

For Starting

- Were you ever afraid of the dark? Share what happened.
- What things do you do or trust in when life gets difficult?
What makes you feel secure instead of being fearful?
- Do you think there are any benefits to fear? Why/why not?

For Reviewing

- What did Jesus do while the disciples got in the boat (v.22)?
- Where did Jesus go next (v.23)? Why? Who was with Him?
- What were the disciples doing when evening came (v.24)?
- What time did Jesus go and meet the disciples (v.25)?
- How did the disciples describe Jesus when they saw him (v.26)? What did this mean? (see footnote over-page)
- What does Jesus say to calm the disciples' fears (v.27)?
- Did Peter believe it was Jesus (v.28-29)? Why?
- What distracted Peter and caused him to sink (v.30)?
- How did Jesus rescue was Peter (v.31)?
- What occurred when Peter & Jesus got in the boat (v.32-33)?

For Discussion

- The Bible has (at least) 366 commands from God not to be afraid. What do the following verses say about choosing to trust in God instead of anything else?
 - Psalm 23:4
 - Psalm 27:1
 - Isaiah 43:1-4
 - Hebrews 13:5-6
- How do we know when God is calling us to do something?
How does God speak to you?
- What do you think of the idea of God challenging us to step out of our comfort zones? Why would He want to do this?
- Quote: "*It's not just making the decision that counts with God; it's seeing it through*". Do you agree/disagree? Why/why not?
- What kind of faith do we need to accomplish our daily tasks?
- You could end by reading together Matthew 14:28-29.

Matthew 14:22-33 (NIVUK)

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ During the fourth watch¹ of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost²," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

¹ The Romans used 4 watches: (1) 6:00-9:00pm; (2) 9:00-midnight; (3) midnight-3:00am; (4) 3:00-6:00am

² Jewish superstition believed that the appearance of spirits during the night brought disaster.