LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WALKING ON WATER

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Pastor Miles McPherson - 6 Dec 2015

This week Pastor Miles delivered an inspiring yet challenging message for all of us. In the story of Jesus walking on the water we encounter 3 elements: The water, the boat, and the storm. The water represented the challenge that Jesus is calling each of us to walk on. This usually requires a step of faith and will produce growth in our lives if we are obedient. The boat represents the things that we are trusting in. As Jesus did with the disciples, He will often put us in situations that show us just how unstable the things we are trusting in (our boats) actually are. Finally, the storm represents our circumstances. Circumstances can be external, such as people or things, or they can be internal like the voices in your head causing doubt. Either way, we see Peter illustrate a perfect point for each of us. If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will overcome the impossible, however if we start to focus on our circumstances, we will drown in the depths of our own fear. Regardless, Jesus is always there if we cry out to Him.

MEMORY VERSE

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- 1. How much does fear impact our lives?
- **2.** Have you ever had an experience where all of your worst fears were realized? (We are not talking about danger, but fear) How often does the fears you create in your mind actually come to reality? What does this tell you about fear?
- 3. How different would your life be if you had no fear?



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Miles talking about going sky-diving and thought about "chickening out" right before he had to let go of the plane, have you ever chickened out on something? Did you regret it afterwards?

Read Matthew 14:22-33

- 2. What is one impossible situation that you are facing now or maybe recently faced?
- **3.** What are some of the boats in our lives? (Things we trust in, that doesn't provide true stability when the storms come)
- 4. What are the storms or in others words, "Things that keep us from stepping out of the boat?"
- **5. Activity:** Look up the following verses: Isaiah 41:10, Philippians 4:6-7, John 14:27, 2 Timothy 1:7, Psalm 23:4, and Joshua 1:9. What does the Bible say about fear? What is fear a result of? Go back to the passage in Matthew that we are studying. Read verses 30 and 31. According to Jesus words, what was the cause of Peter's fear? How many of us can identify having the same cause as Peter for our fears?

For these questions, recommend breaking into groups of 2-3 or 4.

- **6.** Pastor Miles said if we are not in conflict, maybe we are walking with or being led by someone or something other than God. Share an area of your life that is not in conflict but isn't biblical either.
- **7.** Although the enemy (Satan) no longer has our souls as Christians, what kind of Christian do you think he would try and influence us to be? Is there anything you would change in your life to bring in more in alignment with who God desires you to be?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What is one area of your life where you would like to replace fear with faith? Share it with another person and ask them to pray for you.



TAKE IT HOME!

When God calls you out of the boat into something new, is your faith in His power of the power of your circumstances? Do you truly believe that God is bigger than your circumstances? Remember the choices we make in our lives tell others more about who we believe God to be than anything we say.

