

DIGGING DEEPER

John 6:16-21

This week we focused on the fifth sign of Jesus in John's Gospel. Before you begin, pause together and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your conversation, and that God's Word would speak directly into your life.

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: Optional Icebreakers: What is something you've done so many times that you go on "autopilot" while doing it? (Examples: driving home, cooking a certain meal, commuting, etc.)

READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER: John 6:16-21

Context reminder: Right before this, Jesus performed the miracle of feeding 5,000 people. The crowds wanted to make Him king, but Jesus withdrew. Later that night the disciples were alone in a storm on the Sea of Galilee.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. The disciples were rowing in the dark during a storm. Despite their efforts, they were still struggling. What do you see in the text that shows the difficulty of this moment for the disciples?
2. Sometimes we respond to challenges by simply "rowing harder," trying to fix and control things ourselves. Can you think of a time when your instinct was to "row harder" and rely on your own effort? What did that experience teach you?
3. How can focusing on our circumstances (more than Jesus) increase our fear or anxiety?
4. When Jesus approaches the boat, He says: **"It is I; do not be afraid."** This phrase can also be translated **"I AM,"** echoing how God revealed Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14. What does this moment reveal about who Jesus is? What does it mean for your life that Jesus is the "I AM" God present with His people?
5. Things shift in the story once Jesus enters the boat. Why do you think Jesus often meets people in the middle of their struggle rather than removing the struggle immediately? (Consider Proverbs 19:21).
6. Read Isaiah 43:1-2. What promise from this passage stands out to you?
7. How does this passage encourage you when you feel incapable or overwhelmed?

REFLECT: Ask everyone to quietly consider:

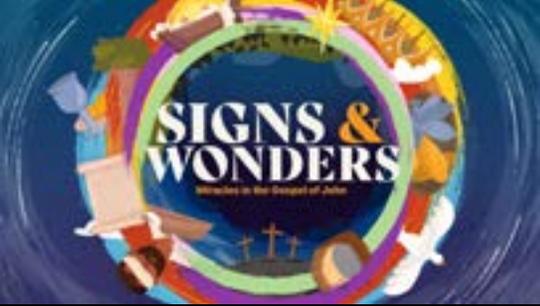
- What storm or challenge am I currently facing?
- Where might I be trying to "row harder" instead of trusting Jesus?
- What would it look like to invite Him into that situation?.

GROUP PRAYER TIME: Share requests and pray for one another.

Consider using Hebrews 12:1-3 as a closing prayer/blessing for your group during this season of Lent:

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.** For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*





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MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE

Fair Oaks Church Sermon Podcast (Apple Podcasts & Spotify) to listen to just the message. Check out *Cutting Room Floor* episodes that further unpack sermons and stories of transformation.

UPCOMING EVENTS [Learn more at fairoaks.church/events](https://fairoaks.church/events)

- **3/18: Prayer Gathering** | 6:30p | Wells Chapel - Collective opportunity to Pray for Come & See Initiative & Holy Week
- **3/21: Men's Breakfast** | 8a-10a | FLC-AMC | RSVP at fairoaks.church/events
- **3/27: Young Adults Game Night** | Dinner Provided | 7-9p | FLC

HOLY WEEK 2026 [Learn more at fairoaks.church/easter](https://fairoaks.church/easter)

- **Palm Sunday:** Services at 9a & 10:30a | Breakfast in FLC from 9:30-10:30a | Kids Program at 10:30a | Volunteers Needed, sign up online
- **Good Friday:** Service at 6:30p | Worship Center
Childcare available & Kids Program for 1st-5th grade
- **Easter Sunday:** Services at 9a & 10:30a | Childcare at 9a (under 3), Kids Program at 10:30a (babies-5th) | Sign up to help us host!

