

CONCORDIA CHURCH GROWTH GROUPS

Fixer-Upper: How Jesus launches His big restoration project

Week 5– Jesus can control the un-controllable; He uses his power to help us even when it’s hopeless

Introduction to Growth Groups

In growth groups you can meet new friends, and continue talking about what God is teaching you through the current message series this week. Please note:

- **Start** each GROWTH GROUP session by ASKING GOD to bless your time together, and to speak to you through His Word, the Bible. And...expect that He will.
- There may be more material here than you can cover in the time allotted for your group. It is more important to spend time discussing the questions people have than to get through every Bible passage on the sheet. Page references are for the GOD’S WORD translation that is used in church on Sunday.
- Reserve time for PRAYER at the end of the session.
- Make it a PRIORITY to be in church at Concordia on Sunday. The Sunday message is the starting point for the GROUP DISCUSSION.

REVIEW -

How have you been applying last week’s lesson – “nothing is too big for God to handle” in your life this week?

DIGGING IN – Read John 6:16-21 (p.1340)

What part of this miracle strikes you most? Why?

- Jesus walked on water.
- Jesus saw the disciples in the dark, over the horizon.
- Jesus “waltzed on waves” for 3 ½ miles.
- The disciples recognized Jesus once He spoke to them.
- After the disciples invited Jesus into the boat, they got to their destination *immediately*.

Where do you most relate to the disciples’ experience with Jesus right now?

Jesus told the disciples to get in the boat and go ahead of him to Bethsaida (Mark 6:45, p.1392). When the storm came, they kept working to get to where they were going, but they weren’t making any progress.

After struggling against the wind and waves for some time, what do you think the disciples might have been thinking about Jesus’ original directions? Have you ever felt something similar?

Talk about a time when you were working and working and working at something you knew God wanted you to do, but you didn’t seem to be getting anywhere? How did that feel? How did you feel about God?

What did Jesus do to get you through that? How is that similar or different to what Jesus was doing here?

What insight do the following verses give you into the power of Jesus to control the uncontrollable? How does that make you feel when you are in a situation that seems beyond your power to control or change?

- Job 38:4-11 (p.634)
- Psalm 89:8-9 (p.725)
- Matthew 8:23-27 (p.1219)
- Proverbs 30:4-5 (p.823)

In **Matthew 14:27**, Jesus tell the disciples in the boat, **“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”** What about that statement enabled them to stop being afraid and invite Jesus into the boat, even as the storm was still raging about them?

Look up **John 10: 4-5 (p.1347)**. How can you get to know Jesus voice so well that you recognize Him, and are calmed by his presence, even when the “storm” in your life is beating against you?

“Take courage” means, *“to be deaf to threats”* and *“to have a heart like iron.”* What is it that enables the disciples employ that sort of attitude here? Where do you need to develop that sort of attitude in your life right now? What would help you develop that sort of attitude?

What insight do the following Bible passages add to your discussion? How will you take the truth in them to heart this week? Which of these verses will you MEMORIZE this week?

- John 16:33 (p.1357)
- Psalm 46:1-3, 7, 10 (p.683)
- Isaiah 43:1-3 (p.910)
- Hebrews 13:5-6 (p.1518)
- Matthew 28:20b (p.1254)

REFLECTION

Where, in your life right now, do you need to stop straining against the wind and the waves, and invite Jesus into the boat?

PRAYERS