

Small Group Guide: Jesus Walks on Water

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus often uses challenging circumstances to soften our hearts and draw us closer to Him.
2. We cannot control everything in life, which can lead to anxiety and fear.
3. Jesus' presence alone should be enough to calm our fears and anxieties.
4. Sometimes we push Jesus away due to bitterness or anger about our circumstances.
5. The ultimate hope is not in immediate resolution of our problems, but in having Christ with us now and forever.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that Jesus sent the disciples into a difficult situation (rowing against the wind) to teach them. Can you think of a time when God allowed you to face challenges for your spiritual growth?
2. How do you typically respond when you feel like you're not in control of a situation? How might this relate to your faith?
3. The pastor said, "Here I am" should have been enough to calm the disciples' fears. Why do you think we often need more than just knowing Jesus is present?
4. Have you ever found yourself bitter or angry at God for your circumstances? How did that affect your relationship with Him?
5. The sermon contrasts the excitement of the crowd wanting to make Jesus king with the disciples' struggle in the boat. How can we discern between genuine spiritual experiences and potentially misleading excitement?
6. How does the image of Jesus walking on water (symbolizing His power over chaos and evil) encourage you in your current struggles?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, when you face a challenging situation, practice consciously inviting Jesus into your "boat" through prayer and meditation on Scripture.
2. Identify an area of your life where you're trying to maintain control. Brainstorm ways to surrender that area to God's authority.
3. Set aside time for honest reflection: Are there any circumstances in your life causing bitterness toward God? If so, confess these feelings and ask for His help in changing your perspective.
4. Choose a verse or passage that reminds you of God's presence (e.g., Psalm 23, Isaiah 41:10). Memorize it to recall during anxious moments.
5. In your prayer time this week, focus on praising Jesus for His power over chaos and evil, rather than just asking for things.
6. Share with the group next time how applying one of these practices affected your faith or outlook on a difficult situation.