

Small Group Moment July 15, 2025

Barrier Breaker: Defy IT – Part 4

1. Lesson Summary

Theme:

This lesson teaches us how to defy natural limitations through faith, using Peter's bold step onto the water as our model. The key idea is that what may seem unnatural must become the norm when we trust in God. Faith challenges us to live beyond logic, comfort, and fear — and into a realm of divine possibility.

Behavioral Objective:

To encourage believers to embrace supernatural possibilities by exercising courage — to choose, challenge, come, and crossover — in faith. Our walk with Christ demands we unlearn limitations and accept that walking on water (faith-walking) is not just biblical history, but spiritual reality.

2. Scripture Section

Matthew 14:23–33 (TPT):


23After the crowds dispersed, Jesus went up into the hills to pray. And as night fell he was there praying alone. 24But the disciples, who were now in the middle of the lake, ran into trouble, for their boat was tossed about by the high winds and heavy seas. 25At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came to them, walking on the waves! 26When the disciples saw him walking on top of the water, they were terrified and screamed, "A ghost!" 27Then Jesus said, "Be brave and don't be afraid. I am here!" 28Peter shouted out, "Lord, if it's really you, then have me join you on the water!" 29"Come and join me," Jesus replied. So Peter stepped out onto the water and began to walk toward Jesus. 30But when he realized how high the waves were, he became frightened and started to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he cried out. 31Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and lifted him up and said, "What little faith you have! Why would you let doubt win?" 32And the very moment they both stepped into the boat, the raging wind ceased. 33Then all the disciples bowed down before him and worshiped Jesus. They said in adoration, "You are truly the Son of God!"

Key Verses Per Point:

- Matthew 14:28 – Courage to Choose
- Matthew 14:29 – Courage to Challenge and Come
- Matthew 14:30 – Courage to Crossover

3. Small Group Discussion Questions and Summaries

Point 1: Courage To Choose Faith over fear:

 Matthew 14:28 – “Peter shouted out, ‘Lord, if it’s really you, then have me join you on the water!’”

Summary:

Peter made a conscious decision to step out in faith. This choice defied his fear, logic, and surroundings. The first barrier to break is always internal — choosing faith over fear.


Discussion Questions:

1. What does Peter’s question to Jesus reveal about his mindset?
2. What fears or thoughts typically hold you back from stepping out in faith?
3. Can you think of a moment when you had to choose faith over fear? What happened?

Reflection Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) – “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

Pastor’s Thought: What is natural shouldn’t become normal for those who live by faith.

Point 2: Courage To Challenge

 Matthew 14:29 – “Come and join me,” Jesus replied. So Peter stepped out onto the water...”

Summary:

Faith doesn’t just choose — it challenges. Peter walked directly into the challenge of wind and waves. Faith dares to do what others only dream about. If Jesus is doing it, you can too.


Discussion Questions:

1. What "winds" or resistance do you face when you try to walk in faith?
2. What does it mean to challenge the status quo in your faith walk?
3. How does seeing Jesus already on the water change your confidence?

Reflection Verse: Romans 12:2 (NIV) – “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Pastor’s Thought: Challenge the status quo with faith- The mind of the Spirit is the word of God.

Point 3: Courage To Come

 Matthew 14:29 – “Come where I am.”

Summary:

Jesus didn’t just call Peter to take a step — He called Peter into His realm, a place where the impossible becomes possible. Living by faith means living where Jesus is — in the supernatural.


Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think it means to “come where Jesus is”?
2. How would your life look different if you lived daily in the realm of faith?
3. What spiritual “invitations” has Jesus extended to you that you’ve been hesitant to accept?

Reflection Verse: Mark 9:23 (NKJV) – “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Pastor’s Thought: Jesus lives in the realm of possibilities.

Point 4: Courage To Crossover

 Matthew 14:30 – “But when he realized how high the waves were, he became frightened and started to sink. ‘Save me, Lord!’ he cried out.”

Summary:

Fear may show up even in faith-filled moments. But Peter didn’t stay in fear; he reached for Jesus. That’s the crossover — not perfection, but persistent faith. Jesus always responds when we call.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Peter began to sink after successfully walking on water?
2. What does Peter’s cry for help teach us about staying connected to Jesus?
3. How do you recover spiritually when fear causes you to stumble?

Reflection Verse: Hebrews 12:2 (NLT) – “We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.”

Pastor’s Thoughts: The inner barriers our own limitations we place on ourselves.

Conclusion & Group Challenge

Call to Action:

Step out with courage — choose, challenge, come, and crossover. Barriers will fall when your focus remains on Jesus, not the storm. Let faith be your default response.

Group Challenge:

Write down one area where you feel called to step out of the boat. Share it with the group and pray for one another to take bold action this week.