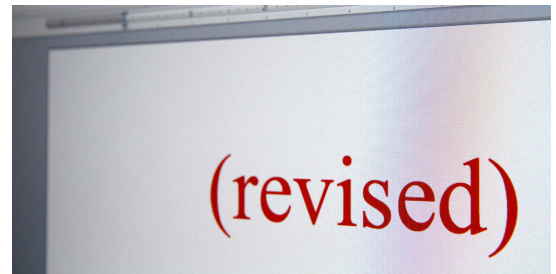


onechurch

bigIdea

I believe there is something—Someone—inside us who tells us there is more to life than sitting in the boat. You were made for something more than merely avoiding failure. There is something inside you that wants to walk on the water—to leave the comfort of routine existence and abandon yourself to the high adventure of following God. *If you want to walk on the water, you've got to get out of the boat.*



BIG IDEA: If you operate out of fear, you'll say "No" when God says "Go". Faith requires risk because the goal of Christianity isn't safety, but freedom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of your everyday fears? What would you say is your biggest fear?
2. What kinds of things do you trust in, especially when life gets stormy, that help you feel comfortable and secure rather than fearful? Be honest!
3. Explain why you do or do not believe that God's calls everyone who follows him to step out in faith and do something extraordinary. What does *stepping out in faith* look like to you?
4. How would you define failure? Thus far in life, what has been your experience with failure? What has failure kept you from doing? What has failure done for you?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read and discuss Matthew 14:22-33.* Why do you think Jesus dismissed the disciples so abruptly? What lesson do you think Jesus wanted them to learn—without Him?
6. Why do you think Jesus invites Peter (and us) to step out in faith?
7. When did Peter start to sink? Why then and not earlier? Have you shifted your focus from the Savior to the storm?
8. In Matthew 8 the disciples were caught in another storm and Jesus saved them when they cried out. But by Matthew 14 they had forgotten about that. How has Jesus stilled the storm and saved you with his assuring words and strong hand in the past?
9. How have you failed in the past? Do you fear failing? How does this story help?
10. It's been said, "The worst failure is not to sink in the waves but to never get out of the boat." What is your boat? How is fear or comfort keeping you from trusting God? What's one risk you can take that would grow your faith and deepen your experience of God?
11. In what area do you need wisdom to know if you're really being called to get out of the boat?
12. What is one failure from your past that haunts you? What trusted friend can you share it with as a step of robbing it of its power?
13. Why did the wind stop as Peter and Jesus climbed back into the boat, and not before (v 32)? What was Jesus wanting to teach Peter—and us?
14. Where are you in relation to Jesus these days:
 - a. Huddled in the boat with a life preserver?
 - b. One leg in, one leg out?
 - c. Out of the boat but the wind looks pretty bad?
 - d. Walking on the water and loving it?

MOVING FORWARD

Look back on your life. When have you stepped up to the plate (to use a baseball analogy) and tried to hit the ball? When have you refused to get out of the dugout when you're name was called? Why? How have those decisions influenced your life—for better or for worse?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. Matthew 14:28-29

(revised)