



Series: The Gospel of John	Date: <b>March 6th, 2016</b>
Topic: <b>The Storm + the Boat = Jesus!</b>	Speaker: <b>Pastor Joseph Ong</b>

## WELCOME

After feeding the multitude, Jesus sent His disciples across the Sea of Galilee. It was there that a storm would test the lessons they had just learned.

For the ice breaker this week, share your answers to the following question: What always makes you laugh?

## WORSHIP

Start the worship time by encouraging people to share praises for what God has done in their life this past week. Sing worship songs from the Sunday services or select your own.

## WORD

**I. Spiritual Objective.** At the end of the discussion, members will:

- A. Understand and discuss how God uses difficult situations to test our faith and help us grow.

**II. The Sermon Synopsis:**

After feeding the crowd of 5,000, Jesus retreated from the crowds and went up a mountain. When it got dark, the disciples started across the lake without Jesus. A strong wind began blowing and the waters grew rough. However, when they were afraid and in the middle of the lake, Jesus came walking towards them on the surface of the water. The appearance of Jesus gave them courage and they welcomed him into the boat.

This story reveals a number of important truths. First, after ministering to the crowd of 5,000, Jesus needed a break. Second, while the disciples had just learned an important lesson of faith in the feeding of the multitude, Jesus wanted to test their faith again by sending them across the lake alone. However, Jesus did not leave them alone, but came out onto the lake to calm the storm.

## The Text:

<sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. <sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup> where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. <sup>18</sup> A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." <sup>21</sup> Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

(John 6:15-21 NIV)

## Discussion Questions

- III. After feeding the crowd of 5,000, Jesus retreated to a mountain for a time of solitude. After doing God's work, Jesus needed time away to recharge his spiritual batteries through prayer and time with the Father. *Why is prayer and solitude important for Christians today? Do you find it important that you "get away" from time to time? What do you do to recharge your "spiritual batteries"?*
- IV. Pastor Joe asked the question: would Jesus send His friends into danger? *Have there been times in your life in which you felt God led you into a difficult situation? Why do these situations occur? Did you feel that God sent you into danger? Or did you sense His presence throughout your situation?*
- V. The disciples learned an important lesson in the feeding of the 5,000, but that lesson was tested again by the storm. The lessons we learn are tested time and time again. *Why do you think it is important that the spiritual lessons we learn are tested again in different situations? What would be God's purpose for this testing in our lives?*



- VI.** Pastor Joe talked about how we have clarity when we are in the light. But when we are in the darkness, it is important that we trust God. *Why is it easier to trust God in the clarity of the light than in darkness? How can we learn to trust God more when things aren't clear? Was there a situation in your life that wasn't clear where you had to trust God? Worse still, how about you going through a dark or difficult time in your life, how were you able to trust God?*
- VII.** Our faith plays an important role in how our own life situations play out. Pastor Joe mentioned the story of Peter walking on the water and how while Peter did start to sink, he still was the only one with the faith to step out of the boat. *What role does your faith, or trust, in God play in your life? Are you willing to risk failure and "step out of the boat" in faith? How do we grow from the times when our faith falters outside of the boat? What needs to happen to have us take the hand of Jesus and allow Him to lift us up?*

## WORK

- **Pray** and thank God for keeping the peace in the storms of our lives. Ask God to increase your faith and trust in the storms of your life and to increase your desire to spend time with Him in prayer and solitude.
- **Pray for Our Building Expansion Project (BEP).**
  - ❖ Pray for our continuing communications of updating our LCC senior citizens on Thursday and the congregation on Sunday about our Option 5C updates.
  - ❖ Pray for the working relationship between our architect and contractor as they update the construction costs of our Option 5C, that it will stay in our approved budget of \$5.75MM.
  - ❖ Pray that God will continue to give our leadership (pastors & elders), the BEP and Stewardship committees wisdom as we

look to Him to provide the needed financial support through our giving, loans and grants.

## Announcements:

1. **BEP Update.** Visit our Concept and Design Center this Sunday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> after both services to view displays of the latest update to our Building Expansion Project in our Rise Up and Build campaign. Also please join us in one of the meetings below as applicable to you:
  - a. **Seniors.** Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Potluck lunch.
  - b. **All Church Congregation.** Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. Lunch and childcare will be provided.
2. **Seniors Car Wash & Workday.** This Sat, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Come and help wash the cars of the seniors in our community and help maintain our church property.
3. **Good Friday Communion Service & PUSH Prayer.** Fri, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Come join us for a special communion service to remember our Lord's death on the cross and to **Pray Until Something Happens.**
4. **Easter Sunday Services.** Services on Sun, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30am & 10:30am. Complimentary light breakfast and lunch to follow. Come and invite your family and friends for a special Easter Service to hear about the "Value of a Soul" and a "Peep-a-Palooza" special program for the children during the 2<sup>nd</sup> service at 10:30am to be followed by our annual Easter Egg Hunt.
5. **Baptism Class.** Sat, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:30am. Learn from the Bible what baptism is all about and how it is an important act for every believer. Child care available with advanced request. Sign up on the Response Form this Sunday.



**HOME Group  
Study Guide**

**Leader's and Member's Copy**

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