

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 8/2/26

Summary

This sermon centers on the powerful promise found in Romans 10:13 that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Using the story of Peter walking on water in Matthew 14, Pastor Mark illustrates that even a small, desperate cry of faith is enough for Jesus to reach out, take hold of us, and rescue us. Peter did not save himself, and Jesus did not wait for Peter to hold on tightly. Instead, Jesus immediately grabbed Him. That picture of grace is the heartbeat of the message. Pastor Mark then shares the salvation stories of ten people connected to the church, noting that most came to faith as children or teenagers, and nearly all could name the specific person who introduced them to Jesus. Drawing from Romans 9 and 10, the sermon echoes Paul's passionate lament for those who have not yet heard the gospel and calls the congregation to recognize that the ripest harvest field is often among children and youth. The message closes with an invitation to call on the name of the Lord, whether for the first time or the hundredth time, because the promise carries no expiration date.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today as a group of people who need You. Just as Peter cried out from the waves, we cry out to You now. Open our hearts and minds to what You want to speak to each of us today. Set aside our distractions, our doubts, and our pride, and help us to be fully present with one another and with You. May Your Spirit guide our conversation, and may we leave this time changed by Your grace. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing someone did for you when you were young that you still remember and are grateful for today?

Key Verses

- Romans 10:13
- Romans 10:14-15
- Matthew 14:28-31
- Romans 9:1-3
- Luke 5:8-11

Questions

1. Peter cried out 'Lord, save me' with just a little faith, and Jesus immediately grabbed Him. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus responded instantly and held on to Peter rather than waiting for Peter to hold on to Him?
2. Pastor Mark pointed out that Jesus said 'you of little faith' rather than 'you of no faith.' Why do you think that distinction matters, and how does it encourage you in seasons when your own faith feels small?
3. Romans 10:13 says 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved' (NIV). How does the word 'everyone' shape the way you think about who is welcome to come to God?
4. Pastor Mark shared that most of the people he interviewed came to faith as children or teenagers. Does that surprise you? What does it suggest about the importance of investing in the spiritual lives of young people?

5. Nearly every person whose story was shared could name the specific individual who introduced them to Jesus. Who is the person you would name, and how has their influence shaped your faith journey?
6. Paul writes in Romans 9:2-3 that he has 'great sorrow and unceasing anguish' (NIV) for those who do not know Christ. Do you feel that kind of burden for people in your life who have not yet called on the name of the Lord? What makes it easy or difficult to carry that concern?
7. Rhonda's answer was that the Lord has 'always' been saving her and is saving her today. How does that idea of ongoing, continuous salvation speak to you, especially in areas of your life where you feel like you keep needing to return to God?
8. Pastor Mark challenged the congregation by saying 'we have the teachers, they are just sitting in the pews.' What is one practical step you could take to invest in the spiritual formation of a child, a teenager, or someone who has not yet heard the gospel?

Life Application

This week, take two intentional steps. First, spend a few quiet minutes calling on the name of the Lord about something you have been afraid to bring to Him. Be honest and specific. Second, write down the name of one child, teenager, or person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Commit to praying for that person by name every day this week, and ask God to show you one simple way you can be the person who points them toward Him.

Key Takeaways

- A little faith is enough. Peter's desperate cry of 'Lord, save me' was all it took for Jesus to reach out and rescue Him. You do not need perfect faith to call on God.
- The promise in Romans 10:13 that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved carries no expiration date and no conditions. It applies every time and to everyone.
- God most often brings people to Himself through other people. Nearly every salvation story shared involved someone who was personally invited, taught, or encouraged by a specific individual.
- The ripest harvest field is often among children and teenagers. The church is called to invest deeply in the spiritual lives of young people because the impact of early faith is profound and lasting.
- Calling on the name of the Lord is not a one-time event. Like Peter throughout the Gospels, we are continually in need of God's saving grace, and He continually reaches out to take hold of us.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being a God who reaches out and grabs hold of us when we are sinking. Thank You that Your promise to save everyone who calls on Your name has no fine print and no expiration date. As we leave this time together, give us the courage to call on You honestly and the compassion to bring others to You. Stir in each of us a burden for the children, the teenagers, and the people around us who have not yet heard Your name. May we be the ones with beautiful feet who carry the good news to them. Hold us fast, Lord, just as You held Peter. We trust You with our lives and with the lives of those we love. In Your name we pray, amen.