

SERMON SERIES
COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES

Sermon title: **By Faith... Peter walks on water (Faith in the storm!)**

Summary of sermon:

From action packed Matthew 14.

Following the feeding of the 5000, Jesus IMMEDIATELY sends the disciples ahead of him onto the lake. The storm comes and Jesus meets them in it.

Storms in life are inevitable. But what is our storm theology?

We are in the crossing over, the kingdom now and not yet. Creation is groaning.

But we are called to be kingdom carriers in the 'crossing over'.

The disciples had a greater revelation of the authority of Jesus in the storm than they did in the feeding of the 5000.

On a personal level, we shouldn't be surprised when storms of life come, but Jesus is with us in them.

Like Peter, can we have the courage to step out of the relative safety of the boat, trusting Jesus to do the impossible?

Discussion points:

1. Read Matthew 14 and highlight examples of great faith in action. How can these encourage us?
2. Why do you think Jesus 'immediately' sent the disciples out onto the lake following the feeding of the 5000?
3. What does the bible teach us about superstitions and things like horoscopes etc? (Deut 18:9-13, Lev 19:31, 2 Kings 21:6, Col 2:8-10, 1 Tim 4:7)
4. Why do you think Jesus reprimanded Peter for having 'little faith'?
5. What does it mean to be 'kingdom carriers'? How can we apply that in our daily lives?
6. When did you last step out of the boat and do something that was impossible for you and only possible with God?

GOING DEEPER...

7. We live in days when the kingdom of God is 'now and not yet' (often paralleled with WW2 between VE day and when the war actually ended). Discuss the parallels between the Exodus of the Israelites and our current crossing over in the kingdom of God.
8. What does Paul say about present suffering? (See Romans 8:18-39)
How would you explain suffering to someone without faith in Jesus?

Action points: *how can we apply the word this week?*

1. If you are currently experiencing a storm of life, keep going! Jesus is with you. Ask for prayer from your group. (Alternatively, look for ways to give a word of encouragement from Jesus to someone who is in a storm)
2. Be purposeful in finding opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus every day. Catch up with each other next week to see how it went.

3. How do you want to 'step out the boat' for Jesus in your life? Take your first step this week.
4. If you know there are areas of superstition in your life, repent and get rid of them. (Ask someone to pray with you as you do this).

Prayer points:

1. As creation groans (Rom 8), continue to pray and intercede for the situation in Ukraine
2. Pray for courage, strength and the strong presence of Jesus to be felt for those currently experiencing storms.
3. Pray for the church to rise up in faith, courage and action in these days.