

DISCUSSION NOTES

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more deeply, & strengthen you to live what you learn.

GETTING STARTED

1. As a kid, did you have any regular fears? Darkness? Ghosts? Snakes? Nuclear holocaust? Clowns?

DIGGING IN

2. Read Mark 6:45-56. Make 5-7 quick observations about what is happening. Who is present? Who is driving the action forward in the scene? How much time passes? What do we discover about the people involved?
3. How would you describe the scene on the water? What would the experience have been like for the disciples? Why do you think Jesus intended to pass them by? Were the disciples in any real danger? What do we learn about Jesus' character from the fact that he stopped?
4. In Mark 6:51-52, Mark gives us a reason why the disciples had been astounded by the whole event. In doing so, he links this event on the water to an earlier event. What was the other event? Why does Mark connect it with this event?
5. What common character trait prevented the disciples from understanding both of these events? If you were present in those times, do you think you would have described the disciples as Mark did? Why or why not?
6. In Matthew's account of Jesus walk on the water, he adds an additional piece to the story. Read Matthew 14:28-33. Who initiated Peter's miraculous walk? What got Peter's attention and distracted him from Jesus? Why did Peter fall? In verse 33, what ultimately resulted from this event?

LIVING IT OUT

7. Reflect back on how the disciples failed to understand the meaning of both Jesus' feeding the 5000 and walking on water. Why do you think we are likely to do the same thing? How can we avoid the problem of a hard heart?
8. Peter took the initiative and asked Jesus to let him walk on water, and Jesus responded positively to his request. Think of what Peter would have missed experiencing if he had not asked for the opportunity! Do you think we miss out on opportunities because we do not ask or do not attempt them? Why or why not?
9. What does it look like for us to walk in daily dependence upon God? How might our constant dependence upon God actually be joyful and freeing for us?
10. Why is it essential for us to *continually* take next steps of faith? What is a potential next step of faith God may want you to take?
11. Given what you've learned in this study, what is God calling you to believe or to do in response to his Word?