

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Weathering the Storm

Week of March 22, 2020

Week 2: Water Walker (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

We are living in dark days and desperately need the light of God's word! As we returned to the study of Scripture, we turned to a passage where Jesus taught us how to find courage when living in stormy seas. This present crisis demands courage of us all. With the help and guidance of Jesus, we can demonstrate surprising levels of courage in the midst of frightening circumstances.

Kicking it off: Of the seemingly endless stream of cancelations, what is one that disappoints you much?

Discussion:

1. Reread *Matthew 14:25* Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. From the nearby hilltop, Jesus could see the disciples struggling to row against the stormy winds. He came to their aid in a very unusual way. Why did Jesus do this?
2. Reread *Matthew 14:26-27a* When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I!"

When Jesus said, "It is I!" he was using the Greek translation of the Hebrew phrase "I am!" or Yahweh! The proclamation of the divine name is usually connected to a theophany (that is, a manifestation of God's character). What is being revealed about Jesus' character in this moment?
3. Why does Jesus connect our courage with His character?
4. Chicago pastor A.W. Tozer once wrote: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." If this is true, why is it so?
5. Jeff provided a list of some of the attributes of God: Loving, Honest, Forgiving, Holy, Available, Just, Patient, Selfless, Wise, Passionate, Faithful, Kind, Generous, Compassionate, Jealous, Humble, Good, Relational, Joyful, Powerful, Creative, Gracious. Pick one of God's attributes and share why you are glad God is this way.
6. Reread *Matthew 14:28b-29* Peter replied, "Tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. In what way is Jesus calling you to get out of your comfort zone?
7. Reread *Matthew 14:30-31a* But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

How does this moment in Peter's life apply to our lives?

Wrapping It Up: We need to pray for courage! Pray specifically for the courage that comes from seeing the character/attributes of God and hearing the call of God.