

## **Matthew 14:22-34 – Walk on Water**

### **Introduction**

*Jesus is teaching his disciples. He does this via his own example, his teaching, and in this passage, through a practical lesson.*

*As you begin to look into this passage, it's important to see the context. Jesus is seeking to find a solitary place to pray and reflect after hearing about the death of John the Baptist. On his way to a personal retreat, a crowd follows him. Filled with compassion, Jesus stops and teaches them. Contrast this with the disciples, who towards the end of the day are growing weary and asks Jesus to send the crowd off so that they can eat. Jesus tells the disciples to feed them.*

*In music there's a form of song called Call and Response. Where the leader makes a call, and the congregation responds with an echo. We are seeing the same thing here with Jesus. He, looking for rest, has compassion on the crowd and teaches them. He gives them spiritual food. The disciples, weary from the day, sees the crowd and wants to send them away. But Jesus is trying to teach the disciples to do as He does. To be filled with compassion and to discover what the power and authority of Christ means in their own lives.*

*Well the disciples, even with their lack of faith, witness the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 (with baskets to spare). And at the end of the day, Jesus then sends the disciples away.*

*The disciples head off out to sea, separated from their teacher – not sent, as much as they were dismissed. And this is where today's study picks up.*

*Keep in mind that Jesus is the teacher, and you are the disciples.*

## Matthew 14:22-34 – Walk on Water

### Warming Up

1. Read Matthew 14:22-34 and then everyone draw the story. And go around and share your pictures.
2. Now if you were one of the disciples, how would you have reacted in your scene?

### Into the Passage

*This passage is pretty straightforward and clear. Not a lot of riddles hiding out. The challenge in this passage is letting it deal with your own life. So spend less time here and more time on the next two sections.*

3. Why did Jesus send the disciples away?
4. The disciples were rowing all night. How do you think they felt?
5. What were the disciples reaction to seeing someone walking on the water?
6. What is the first thing Jesus says to them? What does it mean to “take heart?”
7. Why does Peter respond with what he says?
8. Why does Peter start to sink?
9. Have you ever cried out to Jesus to save you? How did that work out?
10. What does Jesus do in response to Peter.
11. What is the end result of this episode?

### Moving Forward

*Just looking at the words that Jesus says – “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” “Come.” “O you of little faith, why did you doubt.”*

12. Look at the words that Jesus says – “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” “Come.” “O you of little faith, why did you doubt.” – which one of these do you feel like God is saying to you today?

13. If you saw Jesus walking on the water, would you ask Him to call you out? Why or why not?
14. We talked last week about the Power & Authority of Christ. And this week, we see that Jesus is still trying to teach his disciples about that power and authority. If Jesus is your Rabbi, what lesson is he trying to teach you?
15. The disciples had been rowing all night, trying to get to a destination. Are you fighting to get to a “destination” but struggling to get there? Where does Jesus fit into the struggle?
16. What would it mean for you to get out of the boat and walk on the water?
17. What doubts do you have in your relationship with God or in your current situations? Why do you doubt?

### Life Together

*Jesus is also teaching us that his spiritual reality is more powerful than just the reality we see with our eyes. A big part of discipleship is learning how to pray and communicate with Jesus.*

18. Doubt affects our confidence. And often we are most shaken in the confidence of ourselves. But Jesus wants us to focus on him. If we are His ambassadors, then we find our confidence in Him. To know your confidence in Him, you need to know His truths in Scripture. Read these verses out loud together and then pray the truth of these verses into each other’s lives.

1 John 5:14,15; Ephesians 3:12; Habakkuk 3:19; Hebrews 10:19; Hebrews 13:6; John 14:12; Philippians 4:13; Zechariah 4:6

### Final Thoughts

*I imagine that as Jesus and Peter walked back to the boat together on the water, they talked about why Peter doubted. And I imagine that with every step back to the boat Peter’s faith in God increased. But even more so, His faith in Jesus’ love and calling in his own life increased. I want to see Jesus, then take the step of faith to go to where he is. Because even if I start sinking halfway through, that step of faith would develop my relationship with Jesus a hundredfold more than if I had just stayed in the boat.*

## **Matthew 14:22-34 - Some Leader's Notes**

*These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes. Don't place too much focus on them, and let the Bible study discussion lead primarily from the passage itself.*

### **Into the Passage**

*Read Luke 9:1-6*

#### **2. Why did Jesus send the disciples away?**

*He wanted to be alone. But curiously, he sent the disciples away first – whilst Jesus himself dismissed the crowds. Usually I imagine the disciples would be involved with dismissing the crowds so that Jesus could be alone. But it seems more likely that Jesus wanted the disciples to learn something. To see the power of authority of Jesus even more.*

#### **3. The disciples were rowing all night. How do you think they felt?**

*Tired. What a silly question! Frustrated. Disappointed. Discouraged.*

#### **4. What were the disciples reaction to seeing someone walking on the water?**

*Freaked out! Afraid! Disturbed! Shocked! Exclamatory!*

#### **5. What is the first thing Jesus says to them? What does it mean to “take heart?”**

*He says, Take Heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” Don't be afraid. Be Encouraged. Take courage.*

#### **6. Why does Peter respond with what he says?**

*It's the only way to prove that the person's really Jesus. If it's a ghost, it might call him out, but Peter would sink. But if it was Jesus, then Peter would be able to walk on water. After all, as a disciple you can do whatever you see your master doing.*

#### **7. Why does Peter start to sink?**

*He saw the wind and waves and became afraid. He no longer thought he was able to walk on water. The impossibility of the situation made him doubt the power and authority of Christ.*

#### **8. Have you ever cried out to Jesus to save you? How did that work out?**

*I'll let you guys answer that more personal question.*

#### **9. What does Jesus do in response to Peter.**

*He reaches out his hand to save Him. And then asks Him why he doubts.*

#### **10. What is the end result of this episode?**

*The disciples worshipped Jesus saying he truly is the Son of God.*