

Vacation

Sea of Galilee

Matthew 14:22-31 NLT: Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning[a] Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

This week's vacation spot is the Sea of Galilee. For those who have had the opportunity to visit the Sea of Galilee, this beautiful place is oftentimes considered one of their favorite places. The Sea is actually a lake that is surrounded by picturesque Biblical sites. Many of the miracles of Jesus took place around the location, but this week we're going to focus on a miracle that took place literally on the Sea of Galilee.

1A) PERSONAL: Our passage this week begins with the words "immediately after this." Look in the Bible in Matthew 14 to discover what "this" was and describe how you think the disciples might have been feeling or what they might have been thinking about as they traveled to the other side of the lake.

1B) According to Matthew 14:22, why were the disciples in the boat?

2A) Where was Jesus and what was He doing? Verses 23-24

2B) What happened to the disciples? Verse 24

Had they done something wrong? Had they been rebellious or were they actually doing what God had told them to do?

2C) PERSONAL: Describe a time you were faced with an unexpected difficult situation and how you felt at the time. Did you question yourself? Did you question God? What did you do?

3A) What happened next and how did the disciples respond and why? Verses 25-26

3B) How did Jesus respond? Verse 27

3C) How does Deuteronomy 31:6 relate to His words and reveal that this has always been God's message?

Read Matthew 14:28-31:

4A) PERSONAL: Who had a different response and what do you find interesting about his response?

4B) PERSONAL: Explain in your own words how this part of the story helps you understand why it's so important for us to seek and find Jesus and then continue to focus on Him.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2:

5A) What instructions are we given in these verses?

5B) Find and write down the words to the old time hymn called, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus."

5C) PERSONAL: How can the words of this song encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus every day?

Read John 6:16-21:

6A) What added information did John give about this experience especially in verse 21?

6B) PERSONAL: What does this miracle and the various parts of the story reveal to you about the Power, Majesty, and Authority of Jesus?

Read John 16:33:

7) How does this story reveal the Truth of this statement?

ACT: Everyone of us has storms that come into our lives and oftentimes these storms are completely unexpected. But if we will immediately seek Jesus, seek wisdom and understanding and acknowledge the truth that He has already told us that we will have trouble in this world, then we must keep our eyes and our thoughts focused on Him and do whatever He tells us to do. Follow Him and He will see us through our storms because He has overcome the world and we can trust in Him completely.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's read various passages that confirm our need to have faith not fear.

Monday:

Deuteronomy 31:8 NLT

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you."

Tuesday:

Joshua 1:9 NLT

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Wednesday:

Isaiah 44:8 NLT

Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago? You are my witnesses—is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock—not one!"

Thursday:

Psalms 46:1-3 NLT

The Lord is God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

Friday:

Psalms 112:5-8 NLT

Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their business fairly. Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly.

Saturday:

Hebrews 13:6 NLT

So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

Sunday:

1 John 4:17-18 NLT

And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

