



Unit .24

Session .03

Jesus Walks On Water

Scripture

Matthew 14:22-36



22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. **23** After dismissing the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. Well into the night, he was there alone. **24** Meanwhile, the boat was already some distance from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. **25** Jesus came toward them walking on the sea very early in the morning. **26** When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said, and they cried out in fear. **27** Immediately Jesus spoke to them. “Have courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” **28** “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter answered him, “command me to come to you on the water.” **29** He said, “Come.” And climbing

out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. **30** But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me!” **31** Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” **32** When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. **33** Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, “Truly you are the Son of God.” **34** When they had crossed over, they came to shore at Gennesaret. **35** When the men of that place recognized him, they alerted the whole vicinity and brought to him all who were sick. **36** They begged him that they might only touch the end of his robe, and as many as touched it were healed.

What benefits have you experienced from spending time alone praying to God?

When have you had to endure a struggle in your life that God did not immediately resolve? How were you challenged to grow in your faith through that struggle?



99 Essential Doctrines

God is Omnipotent

God is all-powerful: there is nothing God cannot do so long as it does not contradict His own nature or law. God has power and authority over the universe He created, from the largest solar system to the smallest particle. Affirming that God is all-powerful does not mean that God can sin—since that would go against His perfect moral nature. As Christians, we rest in the belief that the God who has all power is good, and we gain great comfort by knowing that an all-powerful God is working for our good and joy.

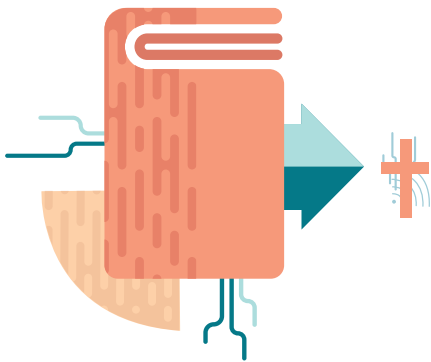
Main Point

**Jesus is in control over
all of life's storms.**

How is the sovereignty of God a comfort to you as a Christian?

In moments of trial or tragedy, to what or whom are you tempted to turn for help or security instead of Jesus?

Why does the recognition of our own spiritual sickness and our need for Jesus compel us to tell others about Him?



Christ Connection

Jesus demonstrated that He has sovereign power over nature by walking on water and calming the storm. Through His miracles, teaching, and most clearly His death and resurrection, Jesus proved Himself to be worthy of our faith and worship. He alone is able to save.



Head

What are some storms we face in life today?

What can we learn from this narrative when facing our own storm in life?



Heart

How does Peter's request while sinking serve as a model for us when we become overwhelmed with life's storms?

What are some current storms where Jesus is calling you to step out in faith?

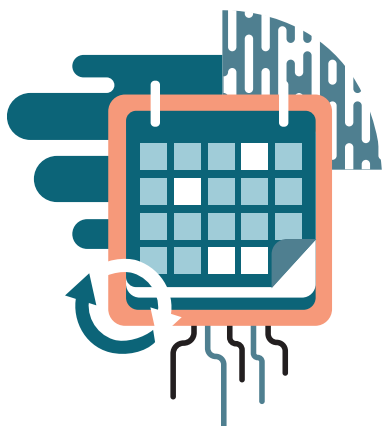


Hands

How does this session challenge us when it comes to sharing Jesus with others?

How does this account challenge our own prayer life?

Daily Devotions



Day 1

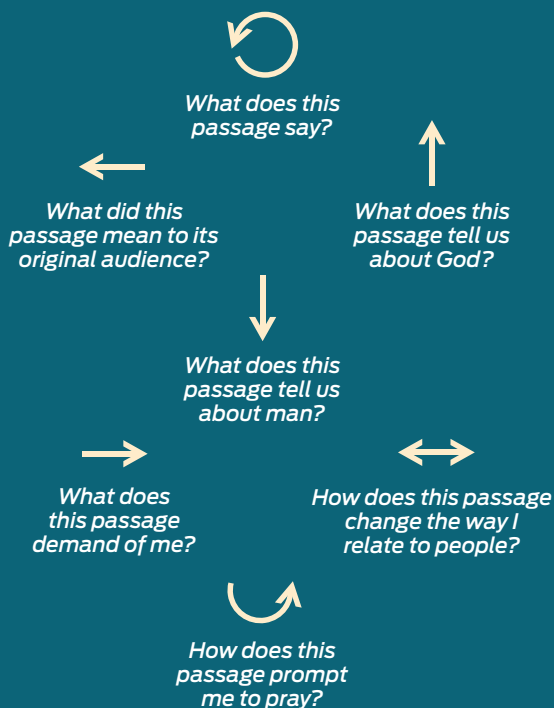
Matthew 14:1-12

The beheading of John the Baptist might seem like a random historical detail to note at this point in his Gospel, but there is rhyme and reason to Matthew's inclusion of this side story. Jesus and John had more in common than merely being cousins; they were both prophets (and certainly Jesus was more than a prophet). Not only were both of these men prophets, they were prophets who faced rejection and persecution. In Matthew 13:54-58, we see Jesus rejected by those in His own hometown. In Matthew 14:1-12, we read that John was imprisoned for his rebuke of Herod's sexual immorality, only later to be executed.

By including these details about John the Baptist and his faithfulness as a prophet to the point of death, Matthew esteems his place in God's story as the prophetic forerunner to the Messiah. The kingdom of God was at hand in Jesus' coming, and thus John acted accordingly as a prophet among God's covenant people, even if faithfulness meant imprisonment and perhaps even death. Though John did not get to experience the miracles in the firsthand way that Jesus' first disciples did, he nonetheless saw Jesus as worthy of his total allegiance.

How have you faced rejection because of your allegiance to Jesus as the Messiah?

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Matthew 14:13-21

Foreshadowing Jesus' own eventual slaying at the hands of corrupt rulers, the sequence of events surrounding the end of John the Baptist's life invites us into Jesus' humanity. After learning the news about His departed cousin, Jesus sought seclusion from the crowds (vv. 12-13). In observing this willful practice of solitude in Jesus' life, we must come to grips with His profound and real humanity.

Even while the Creator of the Universe, the Son of God incarnate also experienced the highs and lows of life as a human being. As He prepared to perform the most spectacular of miracles, Jesus prioritized prayer, displaying for us His immense practical wisdom that would serve us well to imitate. Though He was on a mission to save the world through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus still took time to find a quiet place and commune with the Father in isolation. It is impossible to overestimate the value of this practice in the Christian life.

What would your prayer life look like if you were able to overcome your biggest roadblocks on a regular basis?

Matthew 14:22-24

The Book of Matthew, along with the other Gospels, ordinarily uses the word “immediately” (see 14:22,27,31). In this single verse, the word is used to describe the punctuality of Jesus' command and the disciples' quickness to obey. When it comes to our obedience of Jesus, “immediate” is a good and helpful word. Our obedience should not be delayed, but rather every moment calls for our obedience.

We often excuse or delay obedience until we reach a certain point or time in our lives. We lie to ourselves saying, “I'll stop with this sin when I get over this thing,” or “I'll confess and repent of this sin when my schedule is different.” However, the Christian life is not one of delayed obedience; it should be marked by “immediate” obedience.

What steps can you take today to pursue immediate obedience to Jesus?

Matthew

14:25-31

After the disciples wrongly identified Jesus as a threatening ghost on the waters, He calmed them by saying, “Have courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” There is an important lesson for us to notice in this exhortation. The lesson is this: the presence of Jesus is cause for courage, not fear.

In the story, the revelation that it is Jesus and not a ghost is good news. This can only be good news if the disciples know the presence of Jesus is for their benefit. We know from Paul’s letters that where the presence of the Lord is there is freedom and joy (2 Cor. 3:17). Even amidst sorrow and tragedy, if the Lord is with us, His presence is inexplicably good news, though it may feel bittersweet at times.

At what points in life have you felt closest to the Lord? How has His presence brought you comfort and joy, especially during difficult times?

Matthew

14:32-36

More often than not, the main point we should take away from a story within the Gospels occurs near the end of the passage. Such is the case with Jesus’ walking on water. After Jesus rebuked Peter for his lack of faith, the disciples in response to His power over creation worshiped Jesus and confessed Him as the Son of God. We in turn should respond to Jesus in the same way as we read of His many good works collectively, which culminate in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

Additionally, we should take note of what takes place in the transitional details that follow in Matthew’s narrative (vv. 34-36). The recognition of Jesus spurs people into action, bringing to Him those who need Him. We should do the same with those in our vicinity. Once we recognize Jesus for who He is, it only makes sense that we should want others to meet Him in hope that they might place their faith in Him and be healed.

How are you involved with leading people in your vicinity to Jesus?