

Home Group Leader's Notes
Week of February 10, 2019

SHARE IT

NOTES TO LEADERS: Everyone like to talk about the weather. The purpose of this SHARE IT is to talk about how scary it can be when one is caught in violent weather.

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 14:22-33. Consider the following questions:

What happened just prior to this story? (14:14-21) How did people respond to these miracles? (John 6:14-15)

What did Jesus do in response to the crowd?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus had just done many miracles of healing and then fed the 5,000+ people. The people responded by wanting to make him king (John 6). But Jesus dismissed the crowd and went to a secluded place to pray. This was intentional by Jesus. ("By himself" is emphatic).

What clues in the story (14:22-33) indicate that Jesus was intending to teach the disciples something? What might have been that "something?"

NOTES TO LEADERS: (1) Jesus "made" (compelled) the disciples to go ahead of Him, (2) The author uses the word "immediately" three times in a way that indicates this is a planned sequence, (3) Jesus was praying (something He often did before big events), (4) he waited until they were a considerable distance away. Jesus was teaching them to remember whom He is, that we can and should put our complete confidence and trust in Him.

The disciples saw many miracles that day. What was their initial response to seeing Jesus on the lake? Why might be? How was this miracle different?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The disciples would have seen Jesus do many miracles (healing, feeding 5,000+) but would not have seen the response of the people (i.e. wanting to make Jesus king) because Jesus intentionally sent them away, not wanting them to get caught up in the frenzy. Their initial response to Jesus walking on water was terror / fear. This was, again, something they had never seen. In addition, they were (1) exhausted from serving all day (they were initially trying to get away from the crowds), (2) fighting the wind, (3) at night, and were intentionally sent away and out of the sight of their master. In addition, there were many rumors about spirits (ghosts) in this part of the country. (Demonic activity is numerous in the stories.)

This miracle was also different because it wasn't Jesus doing something that they could just witness – they were in it. Also, it was again (like calming the storm) showing that Jesus had full power over nature (e.g. gravity).

What response did Jesus want from the disciples? (See Matthew 6:30) What was their final response? What changed?

NOTES TO LEADERS: After Jesus revealing Himself for so long, and so much teaching, miracles, and attestation from the Father, He wanted them to respond with faith in Him. Faith was repeatedly what He expected and desired. The disciples changed as they saw again that Jesus controlled the wind and could defy gravity. They recognized that Jesus is God and worshiped Him.

Which of Jesus's words in this passage are significant to you? How can they help you in life?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Consider giving people time to share their thoughts.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What do we learn about Jesus from His actions and responses to the disciples (including Peter)?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- Jesus was intentional about teaching the disciples His character, His identity, and His ways.
- Jesus was always present, even when they couldn't see Him
- Jesus cared about what they were feeling and "immediately" took action.
- Jesus gently teaches us when we are ready to learn the next thing.
- Jesus knows that the greatest thing we can learn or do is trust Him as our loving, faithful, all-powerful Lord.

Why is His identity and character so important to living by faith in Him?

NOTES TO LEADERS: We trust and listen to people based on their character and identity. Throughout the gospels, Jesus's identity is the primary focus. Once we understand who He is, our next step of discipleship should be to follow (obey) Him.

What caused Peter to doubt during his water walk? How is this like us?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Peter took His eyes off of Jesus, acted on his own ability, and failed to remember all the things that Jesus had already done (miracles, acts of kindness), things that should be enough for him to know that he could trust Jesus calling to come to Him.

Shouldn't we do the same? (cf. Colossians 3:1-3) Hasn't He proven to us that we can trust Him?

On Sunday, we were asked, "When fear or anxiety grips your heart, where do you place your confidence?"

What can we learn from this passage?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Hylke's "now what?" statement is "When we recognize Jesus for who He is, we can be **STILL and follow Him.**"

Let's trust Him together,
Steve

