



LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



AUGUST 16, 2026

Dive In (10 Minutes)

Go around and let everyone share...What is a time you took a literal or metaphorical "leap of faith" (e.g., trying a new sport, changing careers, moving to a new city, or speaking in public)? What was going through your head the exact second right *before* you stepped out?

Dig Deep (40 Minutes)

Read Matthew 14:22-33 aloud.

- Jesus *compelled* the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of Him, sending them straight into a heavy storm in the middle of the night. Why do we often assume that following Jesus means clear skies and smooth sailing? How does this passage remind us that being in the middle of a storm doesn't mean we are out of God's will?
- Notice verse 27: As the disciples screamed in fear, Jesus immediately spoke to them: "*Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.*" Why did Jesus address their fear and reveal His identity before He calmed the wind and waves?
- Look at Peter's bold request in verse 28: "*Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water.*" It's easy to focus on Peter sinking later, but he was the only one willing to step out of the relative safety of the boat. What does it take to leave our "boats"—our comfort zones and safety nets—to pursue Jesus in the impossible?
- Consider the shift in verse 30: "*But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'*" What are the modern "winds and waves" (distractions, scary circumstances, bad news) that cause us to take our eyes off Jesus and start sinking into anxiety or fear?
- Jesus gave a reason for Peter's failure – *doubt*. He had faith enough to take a step out of the boat, to walk on water, and to call out to Jesus for salvation, however his faith wavered at the wind. Tell of a time that your faith wavered or when doubt set in, and you "sank."

Do Big (10 Minutes)

- How does the disciples' final reaction in verse 33—falling down to worship Him and declaring, "*Truly you are the Son of God*"—challenge the way you respond to God's faithfulness after a storm passes?
- Step out of the "boat" of your comfort zone, fear, or self-reliance, choosing to fix your eyes entirely on Jesus rather than staring at the storm around you.
- Cry out and rely on His immediate, reaching hand the moment you feel yourself sinking, trusting that He will uphold you and lead you back into peace.