

Keeping Spiritually Fit



Are you excited about your relationship with God? Is it dynamic and growing or pretty stale?

Peter began to sink when he took his eyes off Jesus. Are you still investing in your walk with Jesus?

Out and About This Week



What's one risk you could take that would help your faith to grow:

- Stand up for a value you believe in during a tough conversation?
- Serve God in a new way which will stretch you this year?
- Invite someone you know to come to Alpha?

Prayer For Today



Heavenly Father, as we begin this new series, may we be willing, both as individuals and as your church, to listen to your call on our lives. Give us courage to choose growth rather than comfort, knowing that, when we step out in faith, you reach out your hand to us. Amen.

Based on 'If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat' – John Ortberg

Sunday 14th January 2018

Exodus 3v1-14, Matthew 14v22-33

'Walking on Water'

Peter may have been the first one out of the boat, but Jesus' invitation to walk on water is for us as well.

Walking on water means:

- Facing our fears
- Discovering and embracing the unique calling of God on our lives
- Experiencing the power of God to accomplish what we would not be capable of doing on our own.

In what ways is the Lord telling us, as he did Peter, "Come?"



Verse to Remember

Matthew 14v29:

"Come," Jesus said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus.





Homegroups (or private study)

Matthew 14v22-33

Icebreaker: Are you naturally a comfort-seeker or a risk taker?

- What kinds of things do you trust in, especially when life gets stormy? What helps you feel comfortable and secure rather than fearful?
- Explain why you do or do not believe that God calls everyone who follows him to step out in faith and do something extraordinary. What does stepping out in faith look like?
- What did Jesus say to the disciples in verse 27? How much does our view of God's character influence the degree to which we are willing to trust him and, in faith, to accept his calling and take risks?
- From Peter's perspective, what happened after Jesus told the disciples who he was? What is significant about Peter's response to Jesus?
- Fear of failure is one reason many of us don't step out of the boat. Some people view Peter's walk on the water as failure, but he was the only one of the twelve who went for it! In what ways does our perception of failure affect our willingness to start water-walking?
- Thus far in life, what has been your experience with failure? What has failure kept you from doing? What has failure taught you?
- What impact do you think this event had on the disciples?
- What impact do you think it had on Peter?
- If we keep choosing not to step out of our boats, what happens to us? To people around us? To our relationship with God?
- Share with each testimonies of God's faithfulness when you have been obedient to his call. What challenges are you currently experiencing?

Extra Reading



Read about other 'Water Walkers':
Gideon - Judges chapters 6 and 7
Moses – Exodus 3v1 to 4v17, 13v17 to 15v21

Encouraging One Another



Encourage someone this week who is 'in the storm.'
What practical ways could you show them the love of Jesus?
Pray for strength for them to keep their eyes on Jesus even though the 'waves are crashing around.'

My Quiet Times With God



The decision to grow spiritually always involves a choice between risk and comfort. What fears keep you from really walking with and obeying God?
Think about what Psalm 18v1-3 reveals about God.
What has God said to his people over and over again?
(Genesis 15v1; Joshua 8v1, Daniel 10v12)