

The Gospel of Matthew: Walking on the Sea

Discussion Guide for February 21 and 22, 2026

Summary

This week's message explores Matthew 14:22–36 and the account of Jesus walking on the sea. After the miracle feeding of thousands, Jesus sends His disciples ahead while He withdraws to pray. In the middle of the night, amid wind and waves, the disciples struggle against a storm—until Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. Peter responds with bold faith, stepping out of the boat at Jesus' command. For a moment, he walks on water. But when he shifts his focus from Jesus to the storm, he begins to sink.

This passage reminds us that Jesus meets us in our storms, calls us to courageous obedience, and invites us to keep our eyes fixed on Him. Faith often begins with a single step—and spiritual maturity comes as we keep walking toward the King.

Ice Breaker

What is a “first step” in your life (new job, move, relationship, opportunity) that felt scary at the time but led to growth?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 14:22–36
2. Joshua 1:9
3. Ephesians 4:1
4. Isaiah 26:3

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus sent the disciples into the boat knowing a storm was coming. What does this teach us about God's purposes in seasons of difficulty?
2. In the storm, Jesus says, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” How does the presence of Jesus change the way we face fear and anxiety?
3. Peter asked Jesus to call him onto the water. Do you view Peter's action as impulsive or bold? What can we learn from his willingness to step out?
4. Peter began to sink when he focused on the wind rather than on Jesus. What “winds and waves” most often distract you from keeping your eyes on Christ?
5. Jesus immediately reached out His hand when Peter cried for help. What does this show us about how Jesus responds to doubt and weakness?

Life Application

Prayerfully consider this question:

What step of faith is God calling you to take right now?

It may involve serving, giving, forgiving, reconciling, sharing your faith, or simply deepening your time with God. Identify one specific step and commit to taking it this week.

If you feel overwhelmed, remember: faithfulness begins with doing the next thing. Take the first step, then the next, trusting Jesus to sustain you.

Key Takeaways

- 1.** Jesus meets us in the middle of our storms.
- 2.** God's timing is always perfect—even when we don't understand it.
- 3.** Bold faith requires stepping out of comfort and into obedience.
- 4.** When we focus more on the storm than on Jesus, we begin to sink.
- 5.** Spiritual growth happens as we continue walking toward the King.